

Forest Ridge Park MASTER PLAN REPORT

APPENDIX



Prepared for:
City of Raleigh Parks
and Recreation Department
Raleigh, NC

Prepared by:
Haden Stanziale

*planning
landscape architecture
civil engineering*

2200 West Main Street, Suite 560
Durham, NC 27705

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MASTER PLAN REPORT

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NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Forest Ridge Park

MASTER PLAN REPORT

APPENDIX B: COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & HANDOUTS



COMMITTEE MEETING #: 1, April 5, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

PROJECT MEETING MINUTES #1 March 16, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: March 4, 2005

Location: City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Dept.

Attendees:	Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Dept.
	Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member
	Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member
	George Stanziale	HadenStanziale PA (HSPA)
	Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
	Nicole Taddune	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)

Purpose: The meeting was held to coordinate and schedule the first upcoming public meeting. The public meeting date is scheduled for April 5, 2005 at Campbell Lodge

1. HSPA to notify neighbors and neighborhood groups two weeks prior to meeting date. (Mailables went out in the mail March 15, 2005).
2. HSPA is required to place notification signs 30 days prior to meeting date at two locations on site. (This task was accomplished on March 6, 2005).
3. Vic to post public meeting notice on parks and recreation dept. web site.
4. It was discussed that no boat launching areas will be provided on site per the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE).
5. It was understood that the COE leases the land to the state and the state sublets the land to the local municipalities for recreation purposes.
6. The main goal / priorities of the COE are to: 1. protection and storage of drinking water sources, 2. provide flood control, 3. provide wildlife and aquatic enhancements and 4. provide public recreational opportunities.
7. The following outline was discussed for the first public meeting as follows:

Team Introductions (Mary Alice)

- Roles and responsibilities

Process Introductions (HSPA)

- Meetings
 1. Ground Rules
- Overall process / expectations
- Interest and consideration for the Master Plan Committee

Site Introductions

- History (Vic)
- Analysis Maps (HSPA)
 1. Slopes
 2. Soils
 3. Hydrology
 4. Vegetation
 5. Cultural / Historical
 6. Present Site Conditions

Public Input (HSPA)

- Thoughts about the site
- Program elements

Next Steps (Mary Alice)

- Next meeting location
 - Expectations
 - Selection and approval of Master Plan Committee
 1. Committee sets schedule for on-going public meetings
8. HSPA to prepare / bring sign in sheets, comment cards, note pad, and Map.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:
HadenStanziale, PA

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 2, June 28, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

Master Plan flow chart and Resolution (2003) - 735

PROJECT MEETING MINUTES #2 June 28, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: June 22, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center

Attendees:	Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Dept.
	Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
	Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Co-Chair
	Thomas McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
	Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
	Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
	Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
	Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
	Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
	Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
	Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
	George Stanziale	HadenStanziale PA (HSPA)
	Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce the Committee Members to the Forest Ridge Project.

1. The meeting started off with a general introduction by Mary Alice Farrell followed by Project team, Raleigh staff and Committee members in the room.
2. George Stanziale reminded the team that the consultants are here to listen with no preconceived ideas to the proposed master plan design of the site and that the overall direction of the master plan design will come from the input of the Committee members with an overview by the USCOE .
3. Mary Alice Farrell stated that the ultimate approval of the project will come from the USCOE due to the fact that they are the land owners and that the City of Raleigh is only leasing the land from the USCOE. The USCOE will be an important guiding voice in the design direction of the master plan.
4. Greg Barley explained that voting procedures as follows:
 - a. 15 voting members
 - b. Nine members present required for a quorum

- c. Majority vote of committee members in attendance is required for approval of any items.
5. Greg Barley went over the committee ground rules and the various ways that the public can provide input to the project. The public can provide input by contacting individual committee members, through comment cards provided at the committee meetings and by commenting by email through the Raleigh web site.
6. Vic Lebsock provided the group with Resolution (2003) – 735 and a flow chart of the master planning process and explained the master planning process to the group – see attached flow chart and Resolution (2003) - 735.
7. Vic Lebsock stated that four million dollars has been set aside for the project. The City Council has budgeted four hundred thousand dollars of that total for the site design phase after the master planning process has been completed and approved. The master planning process only goes through conceptual design while the site design phase goes through construction documents and construction administration.
8. George Stanziale provided a quick overview of the physical conditions and observations made of the property and provided a quick overview of the site analysis boards that were brought to the meeting. A detailed explanation of the site analysis will be held at a later committee meeting.
9. A committee member asked about current hunting conditions on the property. Vic explained that there is two year phase out notification process required by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and that this process is already under way. Hunting will be allowed on the property for approximately one more year.
10. Shanna Davis went over accessing the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation department web site with the group.
11. A question was brought up on whether the cultural and historical artifacts found on the site were located by using GPS. The answer was yes but that the general public does not have access to the actual coordinate points. This is to prevent theft or vandalizing of the sites on the property.
12. A committee member asked whether emails between committee members are public information. Vic Lebsock will check into this matter with the city attorney.
13. Mary Alice Farrell went over the upcoming committee member meeting dates as follows: (future meeting dates and locations posted on web site also)
July 20, 2005 – Education
August 10, 2005 – Site Analysis
August 20, 2005 – Site visit and tour of other parks in the area

August 24, 2005 – Programming phase begins

14. It was agreed that future committee meetings will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm until further notice.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

Attachments: Resolution (2003) – 735
Flow Chart

**Revised
January 6, 2004**

Resolution (2003) – 735

**A RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE PROCESS FOR APPROVAL OF MASTER
PLANS FOR PARK AND RELATED PROJECTS**

PURPOSE: To develop a total program for a park which will best meet the needs of the community for which it is intended to serve. To insure that this purpose is met, there needs to be citizen input as well as professional planning and design. The entire process is designed to optimize public participation.

The purpose of a Master Plan for an individual piece of property is to determine the scope and character of its transformation for recreational purposes and for conserving significant environmental features. It has a relationship to the larger comprehensive recreation plan in that it fulfills some portion of the broader recreation objectives.

This resolution was developed to clarify and improve the Master Planning Process. It will serve as a helpful guideline for both the professionals and citizens involved in park planning. It is intended to replace Resolution (1988)-195 and all other Master Planning guidelines, procedures and policies. Flow charts have been provided as visual aids. Descriptions of the park acquisition and development process have been added after the discussion of the Master Planning Process. A new element has been added to guide planning prior to the development of the Master Plan, and titled the "System Integration Plan (SIP)."

The Park Master Planning Process

Please refer to Figure 1, "Park Master Planning Process," as a visual aid to the following explanation of the steps involved in the master planning process.

I. Master Plan

A Master Plan is a conceptual design document that generally describes and guides the future management and development of a park property. It's preparation is intended to be a public process to ensure that the needs of the public are met while preserving the ecological function and environmental quality of the site. Generally, all parks should have an adopted, relatively recent (less than 15 years old) Master Plan when intended for park development.

II. Request to Initiate Master Plan

Recommendation to consider a Master Plan study (new, revised, or amended) may come from a variety of sources, including: City Council, citizen request or petition, City Administration, or the PRGAB (Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Advisory Board). The City Council may choose to set thresholds which *

automatically trigger a public master plan process but the City Council retains the right to require a master plan for any and all park properties, including greenways and nodes on the greenways.

* See Decision 2, Section 3, Page 11.

III. City Council Authorization

City Council shall approve the initiation of a complete Master Plan, revision, or an amendment to a plan, and refer the project to the PRGAB and administration for implementation. Administration shall provide a report to Council and the PRGAB addressing available funding, project schedule, special circumstances, system integration plan, and any other background information.

IV. Select Chair/Vice Chair

Council shall initiate the formal master plan process with the designation of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Master Plan Committee, who shall also be members of the PRGAB. PRGAB shall nominate for appointment to the Master Plan Committee, however, final appointment of the Master Plan Committee shall be made by the City Council.

Chairperson/Vice Chairperson responsibilities will be to:

- Call all meetings and select the dates, times, and locations.
- Preside over the meetings and invite public comment at all appropriate stages throughout the process.
- Formulate meeting procedures that encourage open-discussion, well-informed decision making, and working towards an agreement. The chair will call for a majority vote as needed to finalize decisions.
- Report to the PRGAB on the progress of the Committee, notify the PRGAB of meeting times, and present the final recommendations of the committee to the PRGAB and the City Council.

V. Staff Assignment

A core group of Parks and Recreation staff will be identified by administration for participation on the Master Plan Team. (The Master Plan Team consists of staff, design consultants, and the citizen Master Plan Committee.) The core group will consist of a minimum of three staff members including the Project Manager, Parks Division Representative, and Recreation Division Representative or appropriate substitute members as the Department may determine. The committee may request other appropriate staff, such as the City Naturalist, Urban Forester, or representatives from other City departments as needed for appropriate reports. Staff will be responsible for preparing agendas for meetings, recording meeting minutes, providing background information, and insuring adequate professional input throughout the process.

VI. *Project Notification*

A. Notification

- A notification sign (or more if the site fronts on multiple streets) will be posted at the site 30 days before the initial public meeting.
- Meeting and project information/background shall be made available at least two weeks prior to the first meeting to the City Council, PRGAB, owners of adjoining properties, registered neighborhood groups, including CACs, and registered park support groups * within a 2 mile radius for any park master plan. Other interested groups as suggested by the Public Affairs or Community Services departments, such as the Historic Districts Commission, the Appearance Commission, the Planning Commission, the Human Resources and Human Relations Advisory Commission, and Mayor's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, shall also be notified. Meeting and project information will be posted at community centers and at other sites suggested by the Public Affairs Department. PRGAB, City Council, Master Plan Team (and Committee) Members (once identified), or administration all may recommend concerned individuals or groups who may have an interest in the park to receive notifications and mailings.
- Project and press releases shall be posted on Parks and Recreation website(s) at least one week prior to any meetings, with appropriate linkages to other websites as suggested by the Public Affairs Department.

* A procedure for establishing registered park support groups should be developed by staff and submitted to Council for approval.

B. Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held to inform area residents and interested parties of the beginning of the Master Planning Process and to receive initial input, including local knowledge of natural or historic features and community desires. At this meeting, potential Master Plan Committee members may be identified from among the participants. The public meeting will be in an accessible location as close to the park site as practical.

- Notification of the Initial Public Meeting shall be posted 30 days prior to the meeting date, and mailings sent at least 14 days prior to the meeting date. The meeting date will be posted on the Parks and Recreation Department website 30 days prior to the meeting.
- The Public Meeting notice will be publicized as required by City Council, the open meetings law¹, and will be more extensively publicized where

deemed appropriate by the Chair, Vice Chair, or staff, utilizing appropriate consultation from the Public Affairs Department.

¹ North Carolina State statute Chapter 143, Article 33C specifies that each official meeting of a public body shall be open to the public, and any person is entitled to attend such a meeting. Every public body shall keep minutes of all official meetings. If a public body has established a schedule of regular meetings a current copy of that schedule is to kept on file with tile city clerk Changes to the regular schedule shall be filed with the city clerk at least seven calendar days before the day of the first meeting held pursuant to the revised schedule. For any other meeting the public body shall cause written notice of the meeting stating its purpose to be posted on the principal bulletin board (Public Affairs Department) of the public body and to mail or deliver to each media service which has requested notice (Public Affairs Department handles these notices). The public body shall also cause notice to be mailed or delivered to any person who has filed a written request \with the clerk This notice shall be posted and mailed or delivered at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting. These statutes are subject to change. The City staff should annual review these requirement with the City Attorney's Office.

VII. Consultant Selection

The City's Standard Procedure 100-5 and related Management Policy 100-36 will be followed by the Parks and Recreation Department professional staff and the City Manager for drafting a Request For Proposals (RFP) and selection of the project consultant except as directed by this policy. Final selection shall be subject to final approval by the City Council following normal procedures.

For a Master Plan Amendment, which is required when a new specific use is proposed in a park that does not significantly alter the uses established by the adopted Master Plan for the park, skip items VIII through XI and proceed to XII Public Review of Draft Master Plan or Draft Master Plan Amendments.

VIII. Master Planning Committee Selection

- The PRGAB, after appropriate consultation with staff, shall recommend the membership and composition of the Master Plan Committee to the City Council for final appointment. The Master Plan Committee should be representative of persons with interests in the park and appropriate uses. The selection should take into account demographics of the area including age, race, gender, educational background and professional/personal experience, and other relevant qualifications related to the characteristics of the park involved.
- A minimum of twelve (12) members and a maximum of fifteen (15) members, including the Chair and Vice Chairperson, will be chosen.
- Potential members may be solicited at the Initial Public Notification Meeting, through flyer mailings, nominations from CACs and City appointed bodies, recommendations from City Council, or by posting on the City's Parks and Recreation webpage.

- Candidates should be informed of the expected time commitment and need to attend substantially all committee meetings. Candidates unable to make the commitment of time and study should not be selected.
- Nominees for the Master Plan Committee shall be forwarded to City Council by the PRGAB for final appointment.

IX. Education

The Master Plan Committee shall receive background information useful to the master planning process, including:

- A review of the expectations for full participation, including attendance at meetings and individual study to understand the process and the project.
- A description of meeting procedures by the Chair.
- The current Council approved Master Planning Policies as well as the City Conflict of Interest policies.
- Comprehensive Park, Greenway and Open Space Plan and other relevant portions of the City Comprehensive Plan.
- If there is a Systems Integration Plan, it will be provided.
- The staff will provide an executive summary (and make the complete copy available for review by committee members) of the site inventory with additional staff comment relevant to special features identified in the inventory, and make preliminary suggestions about objectives for the park to be considered by the Committee. Detailed information should be provided on any special environmental features identified through any available sources such as the Wake County Natural Areas Inventory, the NC Natural Heritage Program Database. or the Wake County Capital Trees Program.
- Staff will arrange an appropriate tour of other facilities with relevant programming and a site visit to the target park facility.
- Formal or informal citizen survey from the park planning area if available, and a summary of the public comments that have been received.
- Information on existing or anticipated funding.
- A description of the Parks and Recreation Department organization and operations as it applies to the project, and a description of the consultant and staff roles.

All Master Plan Committee Meetings will be open to the public. It will be the staff's responsibility to insure that the meeting dates are published in accordance with the State of North Carolina's Open Meetings Law.

X. Master Plan Program Development

The Master Plan Committee shall develop a program statement for the Master Plan that describes the overall vision for the park, including uses, sensitivity to natural elements, identity, history and other characteristics as appropriate. The Master Plan Program should be consistent with the System Integration Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Greenways Comprehensive Plan Elements. The Program Statement should include reference to the ecological significance and

functions of the site and its relationship to the larger citywide and countywide facilities and their functions, particularly with respect to watershed protection and riparian buffers.

XI. Draft Master Plan

Based on the Program Statement, the design professionals will develop alternative site related diagrams representing a range of Master Plan Alternatives. The committee will select the concept that best accomplishes the Program Statement goals.

The Draft Master Plan shall include the conceptual plan rendering, the Program Statement, other background information as appropriate, a written description of the intent of the Master Plan concept proposed, including the established elements of other previously adopted Master Plans, as well as recommendations for environmental stewardship of the park site and development of the park project.

The Master Plan Committee shall identify Priorities for phased development of the project, with consideration given to information on existing and anticipated funding. This information shall be approved by the Master Plan Committee and made available for public review and comment as provided in the following section.

XII. Public Review of Draft Master Plan or Draft Master Plan Amendments

The Draft Master Plan or Draft Master Plan Amendments will be made available for public review and comment. The complete "draft" and the Systems Integration Plan will be displayed on the Parks and Recreation Department website, at the nearest community center to the park location, the administrative offices for the Parks and Recreation Department at Jaycee Park, or other suitable locations suggested by the Public Affairs Department. There will be comment cards available at those locations. This display should be available at least fourteen (14) days prior to the public meeting.

The public meeting will be held by the Master Plan Committee to receive comment on the Draft Master Plan prior to recommendation to the PRGAB. Public notification of this meeting shall be consistent with notification requirements in section V, "Project Notification." The PRGAB should be encouraged to attend this public meeting. Public comments shall be received for a period of at least two weeks after the public meeting. All comments received shall be summarized in a document and provided to the Master Plan Committee and Consultant, the PRGAB, and the City Council.

Concurrently, City administration interdepartmental review of the Draft Master Plan will take place. Comments provided through this review will be summarized in written form and provided to the Master Plan Committee, the Consultant, and the PRGAB, as well as the City Council.

XIII. Recommended Master Plan

The Master Plan Committee shall review comments received and address them in the final proposed Master Plan or Amendment to be forwarded to the PRGAB for consideration. The proposed Master Plan or Amendment shall include the final conceptual plan rendering, program statement, other background information as appropriate, written description of the intent of the Master Plan concept proposed, and recommendations for phased development of the park project, as well as the established elements of other previously adopted master plans.

XIV. PRGAB Review of Proposed Master Plan

The PRGAB shall consider the proposed Master Plan or Amendment with supporting documents and report to City Council. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on the plan to the PRGAB at a meeting advertised as prescribed in Section XI. Oral or written comments shall be accepted and transmitted with the proposed Master Plan to the City Council.

XV. City Council Review for Adoption

City Council shall receive the proposed Master Plan report with recommendations and comments of the PRGAB for consideration. Final approval of any Master Plan or Master Plan Amendment lies with the City Council after they have completed their review. The City Council may choose to return the plan to the PRGAB for additional revision of key elements.

The Master Plan Committee shall stay in existence until dissolved by the City Council, and the membership will be encouraged to attend the presentation to the City Council.

General Description of the Park Development Process

For a visual representation of the park development process, please refer to the Park Development Process Flow Chart (Figure 2.) The "Decisions" outlined below refer to the points at which a decision must be made in the process before continuing on to the next step.

I. Comprehensive Plan

The Park, Recreation and Open Space element of the City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan is the document that guides development of the City's park system. The City Comprehensive Plan projects local and regional growth patterns and public infrastructure needs including parks, greenways and open space for conservation of natural resources and preservation of our environmental quality. The overall Comprehensive Plan and its influence on these specific elements must be considered in the context of park planning in order to ensure that public needs are met in the decision-making processes.

Future park needs are compared with an existing inventory of park facilities over a twenty to thirty year horizon. Capital improvement funding, acquisition of park properties, classification of new park lands acquired, and master planning of specific parks should each be guided by the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

II. Capital Improvement Program.

The Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") is a multi-year budget for implementing the Comprehensive Plan. The CIP includes capital allocations for park development projects, including land acquisition, facility development and renovation, including both park bond projects and general fund projects. The City Administration reviews and updates its recommendations for the CIP annually and forwards them to the PRGAB for review and comment. Then, the Administration forwards its final CIP recommendations to City Council for review and adoption.

Decision 1:

Is the land owned by the City?

(If the City already owns the park land, then skip III and IV, and proceed to Decision 2 below)

III. Land Acquisition

The City Administration conducts all land acquisition for the park system with direct supervision by the City Council. Land acquisition includes identification of potential park sites, negotiation of purchase agreements with landowners, and acquisitions. All acquisitions should be consistent with the goals and objectives established by the Comprehensive Plan, and must include appropriate environmental investigations and a minimal site assessment prior to recommendation to the City Council.

IV. System Integration Plan

The objective of the System Integration Plan (SIP) is to develop a set of guidelines for the interim management of parkland prior to the initiation of a Master Plan, to document existing site conditions and constraints, to establish the park's classification consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, and if applicable, any proposed special intent for the park. The SIP is not intended to restrict the Master Plan Process.

Public notification of the SIP process shall be given to the City Council, the PRGAB, the CACs, registered neighborhood groups, registered park support Groups, and appropriate City appointed bodies.

Greenway Parcels and open space parcels will generally not require a site-specific System Integration Plan as the purpose and management of greenways

is generally defined by the Greenway Element of the Comprehensive Plan and the restrictions included in the acquisition instruments. Special segments with unique ecological features or larger nodes in the greenway system may require an SIP and/or a Master Plan. The Master Plan in these cases may equate to a General Management Plan as used by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation or adopted City Parkland Greenway Management policies.

A. SIP Elements:

1. City Council Directed Purpose

Review and confirm any proposed purpose stated by the City Council for the development and use of the property. Utilize the baseline inventory to identify any potential conflicts with existing City policies or ordinances as well as applicable state and federal laws. Potential conflicts and proposed resolutions of these conflicts should be reported to the City Council for final approval.

2. Property Deed Restrictions

Review the deed or purchase agreement for any restrictions, limitations, or commitments to the intended development of the property.

3. Comprehensive Plan Correlation

The current Comprehensive Plan should provide initial direction regarding the classification of, purpose and development intent for the park acquisition. Correlation to the Comprehensive Plan recommendations should be confirmed in the City Council action to acquire the property.

4. Site Inventory

An initial evaluation of the property will be conducted to determine the range of features and qualities of the property to provide direction and guidance for the management and future development of the property. This evaluation and management plan will be enhanced by:

- Documentation of existing site conditions and constraints, the extent and character of natural and cultural resources, and any existing facilities.
- Tree, flora and fauna-inventories.
- A general review of the site to determine potential stream and watercourse buffers, property buffers, and special features to be addressed in the SIP.
- A review of development regulations for additional requirements that should be addressed in the SIP.
- An inventory of historical data at the local and state levels to determine potentially significant features to be addressed in the SIP.
- An inventory of archeological data at the local and state levels to determine potentially significant features to be addressed in the SIP.

The tree, flora, fauna, ecological, historical and archeological inventories should be performed by staff or consultants specifically qualified to perform such

inventories. These findings shall be presented to the PRGAB for review in their entirety along with attached staff comment.

At this stage, the PRGAB should consider referral to an appropriate PRGAB committee to serve as an SIP Advisory Committee to review the findings and assist staff with interim management policies.

Any unique findings will be used initially in management decisions for the property and then later shared with the citizen Master Plan Committee and consultant. Interim management decisions for the site should be resolved to best maintain the environmental quality and ecological function of the site.

B. Develop and Submit for Approval

Parks and Recreation Department staff shall develop the SIP, working with the SIP Advisory Committee where the PRGAB has chosen to assign to the appropriate PRGAB committee. The draft SIP shall be posted on the City's website and other appropriate publication as suggested by the Public Affairs Department. The public shall be given reasonable opportunity to comment through email or other written communication as well as the formal presentation to the PRGAB. A sign (or more if the property fronts on multiple streets) shall be posted at the site fourteen (14) days prior to presentation to PRGAB. Adjoining property owners and CACs previously identified City appointed bodies, registered neighborhood groups, and registered park support groups will be notified of the plan fourteen (14) days before presentation to the PRGAB. The public shall be given an opportunity to comment in person at a regularly scheduled PRGAB meeting. The PRGAB shall submit the recommended SIP to the City Council for adoption after appropriate review. The SIP shall be established and adopted by City Council as soon as is practical after site acquisition.

Decision 2:

Is a master plan needed?

1. A new Master Plan is needed in the following situations:

- Every park site should have a minimal baseline inventory showing property boundaries and riparian buffers and a Master Plan or General Management Plan
- For acquired but undeveloped park property, a Master Plan derived through a public process is required before any development for public utilization.

2. A Revised Master Plan is needed in the following situations:

- When a Master Plan has been in place more than 15 years, the park has not been fully developed and additional facilities or renovations are planned. This may be minimal review by the PRGAB and staff if the

plans are consistent with an existing Master Plan, but must be publicly advertised for comment.

- Proposed park improvements are not consistent with the existing adopted Master Plan.
- The Revised Master Plan Process will be the same as for a new Master Plan.

3. The following thresholds will be considered when evaluating whether to initiate a new Master Plan, revised Master Plan or Master Plan Amendment:

- An improvement with a monetary value greater than \$350,000 or \$500,000 over five years.

4. A Master Plan Amendment is needed when a new specific use not included in the adopted Master Plan is to be considered for the park or a specific change for the park is proposed that does not significantly alter other uses of the park.

5. A Master Plan is not needed when:

- There is facility development or maintenance that is consistent with an existing Master Plan.
- Greenway development. However, special segments with unique ecological features or larger nodes in the greenway system may require an SIP and/or a Master Plan. The Master Plan in these cases may equate to a General Management Plan as used by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation or adopted Park and Greenway Management Policies. A Master Plan Amendment to the Greenway Element may also be appropriate.

V. Design

Design is the first step in implementing a Master Plan. The design phase provides the detailed, technical development plans for components and/or phases of a park. The design process is directed by the City staff utilizing appropriate consultants and public comment, based on the adopted Master Plan and reflecting the development regulations and codes that regulate the design and implementation of construction projects. Schematic design of components or phases of a park will be reviewed with the PRGAB and the public to provide the Parks and Recreation Department staff with feedback on the compatibility of the project with the adopted park Master Plan. The Master Plan Committee (those who are still local and/or reachable by normal means) shall be notified of the Design Phase and invited to comment to the PRGAB during the public review. Additional direct community feedback on the project design plans will be solicited by the following methods: (1) For at least 14 days there will be a display/posting of plans on City's website and (2) at a nearby community center for at least 14 days in advance of the advertising of the bid process for public review and comment. Comments shall be forwarded to the PRGAB and the City Council prior to awarding of contracts.

VI. Construction

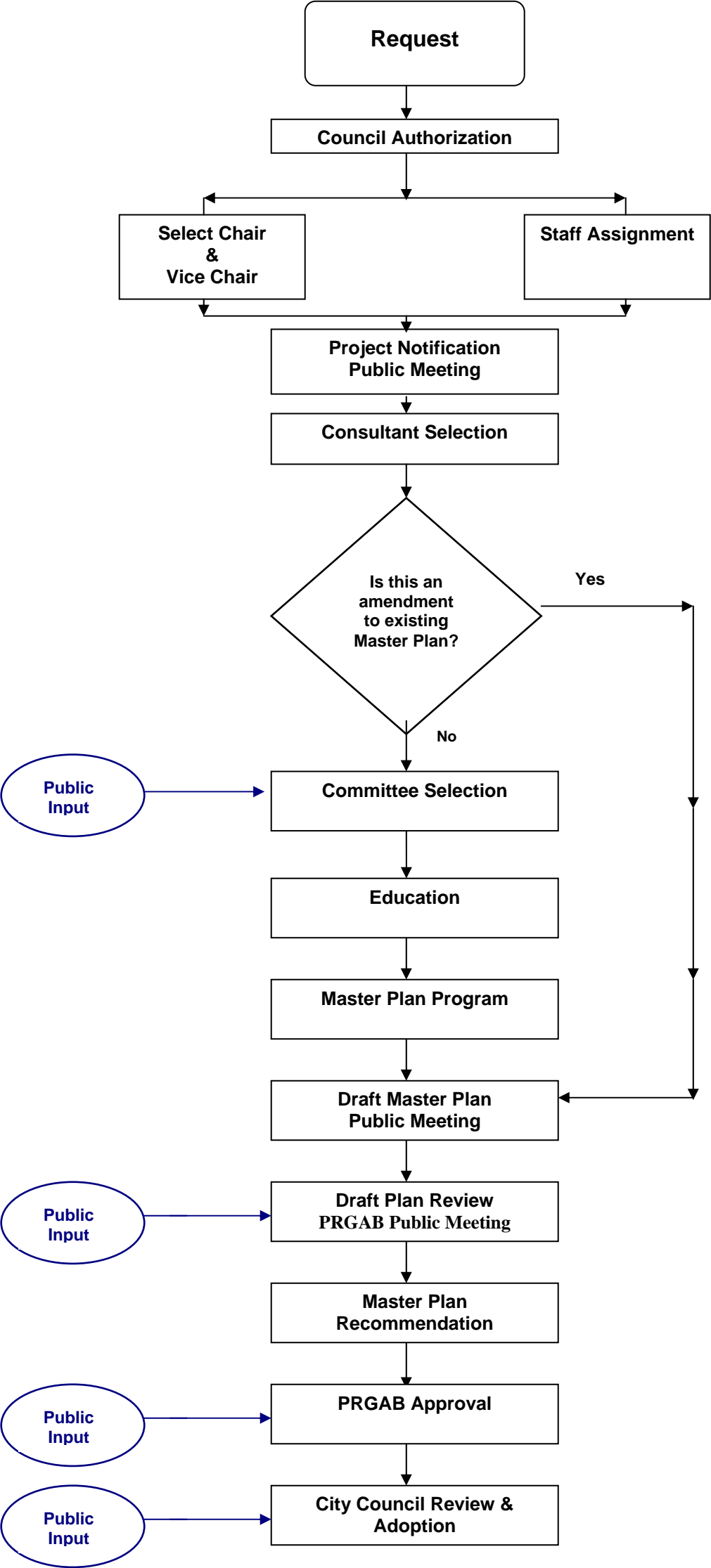
Construction is the final step in implementing the Master Plan. City Administration directs the construction process. Public bid and contract laws and procedures regulate the process of construction bidding, contract award, execution and implementation of construction projects.

VII. Post Occupancy Evaluation/Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

After each major phase of development and construction, the park facilities and customer satisfaction with the facilities will be evaluated by the staff through user surveys. The objective of these evaluations is to identify improvements that the City can make to improve functioning of the park. The staff will prepare a report to the PRGAB and the planning consultant including information from public survey or comment. The PRGAB shall report to the City Council as they deem appropriate.

Adopted and Effective: April 15, 2003

Park Master Plan Process



COMMITTEE MEETING #: 3, July 20, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

PROJECT MEETING MINUTES #3 July 20, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: July 20, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Dept.
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Co-Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Thomas McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	Wake Weekly

Purpose: The meeting was held to share the site analysis and preliminary composite study to the committee members.

- 1) The meeting commenced with a review and approval of the Meeting Minutes from Meeting #2, June 22, 2005. The Committee approved the Minutes with no changes.
- 2) The consultants (HSPA) presented the site analysis and listened to comments, questions and discussions from the committee members.
- 3) A committee member asked if the white water area will be developed as a part of this project. Vic replied that this is a separate budgeted element included in the Park Bond package.
- 4) Committee member Carol Banaitis (COE representative) asked why we included the dam area in the Forest Ridge Project area. City of Raleigh and COE to discuss and clarify this issue.
- 5) Committee member asked where the COE originally thought a park was to occur—the Corps thought the site would be primarily the peninsula area
- 6) Committee member Carol Banaitis shared that the open pasture areas have been maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWR) and there have also been prescribed burns and thinning of pines.
- 7) A committee member requested a context map illustrating the site in relation to the lake and the river. Vic Lebsock agreed that this would be a good idea and requested that the consultants provide this context map for the next meeting
- 8) Vic noted that a 50' Neuse River Buffer setback will be required along the shoreline of the lake around the entire site.
- 9) A committee member asked if development of any type could occur in the 50' Neuse River Buffer. Vic explained that a greenway could be allowed in the buffer if "no

practical alternative" existed. The "practical alternative" would be determined by DWQ—the Department of Water Quality, a state agency. Vic also explained the two zones of the buffer—Zone 1 is the first 30' and is a no build zone. Zone 2 is the next 20' where regulated development could occur.

- 10) Committee members asked questions regarding ADA and slope issues. Todd Parrott discussed trying to stay out of extreme slopes with development. Vic Lebsack pointed out that there are precedents where areas with extreme slopes have been developed with the use of retaining walls. Committee chair Mary Alice Farrell stated that it is preferable to avoid restrictive areas wherever possible in order to limit the cost of development.
- 11) A committee member asked about the sale of pines should selective clearing need to occur on the site. Vic Lebsack responded that that would need to be negotiated as part of the lease.
- 12) Committee member Carol Banaitis mentioned the COE's issue of safety around the dam area.
- 13) A committee member asked about the spillway issue in relation to connectivity.
 - a. Committee member Carol Banaitis explained that obstructions cannot be placed in the spillway. A path might be allowed in the spillway. Todd Parrott asked if a bridge could span the spillway.
 - b. Vic stated that the width of the spillway is approximately 200'. There are pre-manufactured bridges that can span 200'; therefore, depending upon actual dimensions it would be possible to span the spillway with a bridge.
- 14) Committee member Debra Pribronic expressed concern about the direction of the process. Vic Lebsack clarified that the content of the next meeting would be about discussing the regional parks and recreation needs as defined in the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Vic also clarified that in following meetings the committee would focus on developing a program and mission statement for Forest Ridge Park.
- 15) The next meeting dates were reiterated:
 - a. August 10—Education, Raleigh Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
 - b. August 20—Site visit and tour
 - c. August 24—Programming Phase

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 4, August 10, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

Executive Summary from the Raleigh Parks Plan

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

2003 Parks and Recreation Class Registrations

PROJECT MEETING MINUTES #4 August 10, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: August 10, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary VanHaaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Co-Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Diane Sauer	P & R– Recreation Superintendent
Wayne Schindler	P & R—Maintenance Superintendent
Tiffany Long	Parks and Recreation—Nature Programs
Dale Smith	Parks and Recreation—Athletics
Michael Kafsky	Parks and Recreation—Adventure Program
Tom Freeman	USCOE
Jan Kirschbaum	Parks Board
Wayne Marshall	Parks Board
Sheri Recalde	Homeowner
Alan Thompson	Homeowner
George Stanziale	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce committee members to the recreation programs and needs for the City of Raleigh. Representatives from the Parks and Recreation Program Areas presented overviews and specific needs of their respective programs.

- 1) A quorum was not present so voting could not occur.
- 2) Mary VanHaaften has joined the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department as Park Planner. Mary will be assisting Vic with the Forest Ridge Master Planning Process.
- 3) Vic provided committee members with a copy of the Executive Summary from the Raleigh Parks Plan. The Parks Plan is a component of Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan and includes *"recommendations for new park development, maintenance and continued renovation of existing parks and facilities, and guidelines that will allow the system to provide ample recreational opportunities for all citizens while remaining flexible to change with recreation trends, significant development opportunities and Raleigh's growing population."* Vic explained that a Recreation Participation and Preference Survey was used to determine the current demand and the latent demand for the various recreation activities available throughout Raleigh. Vic defined latent demand as the difference between actual participation and desired participation. Vic also defined

“level of service” as the number of services available (i.e. park acres, # of ball fields etc.) [See Raleigh Parks Plan attachment]

- 4) Vic reminded the committee that Forest Ridge Park is classified as a Metro Park as defined by the Raleigh Parks Plan. [See Raleigh Parks Plan attachment]
- 5) Diane Sauer, Recreation Superintendent for Raleigh, provided an overview of recreation needs as defined by the Comprehensive Plan. Diane introduced the 6 divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department: Recreation, Parks, Building Maintenance, Administration, Design Development and Special Facilities. Diane also identified the following program areas of the Recreation Department: Athletics, aquatics (8 pools, 2 year round), Arts Program (2 arts facilities), Adventure Program, Nature Program, Senior Adult Program, Teen Program, Youth Program, Historic Sites, and Summer Camps. [See Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement attachment]
- 6) Dale Smith, Athletics Director, provided an overview of her department: Sports are divided into youth and adult categories. Youth programs are organized using a district strategy. The department provides services for both traditional and non-traditional sports. 370+ softball/baseball teams and 320+ basketball teams are currently operating in Raleigh. The current Athletic Department needs are: multi purpose fields/areas, preferably with lights. The department cannot currently support any more activities during the traditional season. Dale defined a “multi purpose field” as a field with the approximate dimensions of a soccer field which can be used for soccer, lacrosse, cricket etc.
- 7) Mike Kafsky, Adventure Program Manager, provided an overview of the Adventure Program: The Adventure Program is a 21 yr old program that focuses on experiential learning, team building, skills development for adventure and wilderness activities, and fostering environmental appreciation and stewardship. The programs focus on non-motorized activities and offer youth camps in addition to diverse adult and youth activities. Mike stated that with the appropriate resources it is possible to take Adventure Programming to another level of service. Much of the future growth could be realized through a transition from a program based at the Wade Avenue administration office to a facility-based program. A facility-based program would allow for greater logistical efficiency in programming planning and preparation, enhance existing programs, and would result in expansions into new programming possibilities. [See Adventure Program Summary attachment]
- 8) Tiffany Long, City Naturalist, provided an overview of the Nature Programs. The Nature Program activities primarily take place in natural settings i.e. creeks, ponds, woodlands, wetlands etc, and require nearby facilities that provide shelter (for rainy days), bathrooms, and bus parking areas. Nature programs are aligned with the public school science curricula. Tiffany expressed that bus parking at many parks is inadequate. Nature Program activities would benefit from extensive trail systems and sites that are removed from city sounds and lights. [See Nature Program Summary Attachment]
- 9) Vic reminded committee members that the field trip is scheduled for August 20th starting at 9:00 am. Participants are to meet at Wakefield High School Parking lot at 9:00 am (enter from Falls of Neuse Road, meet above school bus area). Bring a rain coat and wear clothes for hiking. Lunch will be provided. The trip will take approximately 4-5 hours. Committee Members are strongly encouraged to attend.
- 10) George Stanziale introduced the Programming Phase of the project which will begin at the next Committee Meeting, August 24th. The programming phase will take place over 3 consecutive meetings. George stated that these next three meetings are critical for committee members to attend as the vision for Forest Ridge Park will begin to be formulated during this time. An example of a mission statement and a program statement was provided to committee members.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vision

This Plan envisions and seeks to accomplish a system of aesthetically pleasing, conveniently located and inter-connected parks, greenways and public open spaces that provide opportunities for recreation and the enjoyment of nature for all citizens of Raleigh. This vision connects both City residents and park system facilities to Wake County and the Triangle region through greenway corridors and trails. The system actively supports the health and well being of people, wildlife, and the environment and fosters a strong sense of community, ownership and pride. Flexible, user-sensitive and innovative facilities and programs that provide a broad range of opportunities and are responsive to citizen interests are the hallmark of Raleigh Parks and Recreation.

Purpose

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Greenways Element of the Comprehensive Plan, referred to as the *Parks Plan*, is to set a framework for City park planners to use as they chart the course for the programming, maintenance and development of the park system over the coming two decades. This component of the Comprehensive Plan is meant to be a working document that grows and evolves as the park system develops and changes. Included within this plan are recommendations for new park development, maintenance and continued renovation of existing parks and facilities, and guidelines that will allow the system to provide ample recreational opportunities for all citizens while remaining flexible to change with recreational trends, significant development opportunities and Raleigh's growing population. Using a combination of national planning guidelines in combination with broad community and City participation, this plan provides the City with a vision for its park system to the year 2025. This Parks Plan also continues to promote the notion of Raleigh as a "park with a city in it" for future generations.

Planning Process

The development of the Parks Plan is the result of an interactive process of collaboration between the key members of the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department staff, the Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board (PRGAB), the consultant team, and interested citizens of Raleigh. The two-year process has included analyses of existing conditions data; facilitation of a series of interactive workshops to identify issues, opportunities and recommendations; and development of maps and documents to convey these recommendations.

Community Involvement

The following methods of community involvement were used to solicit citizen input to the Parks Plan:

Public Forums: Two sets of Community Open House events (six sessions) were held in multiple locations throughout the City and at varying times of day in order to allow citizens several opportunities to provide their input.

Parks, Recreation and Greenways Advisory Board (PRGAB): The PRGAB provided input during the analysis process and reviewed the preliminary Parks Plan. The Project Team met with the PRGAB three times during the planning process.

Web-Based Project Updates: Periodic updates summarizing project progress were posted to the Parks and Recreation section of the City's website and interested parties were encouraged to provide input on any part of the Parks Plan throughout the process via an e-mail link.

Public Review of Parks Plan Documents: As a part of the web-based project updates, a preliminary version of the entire Parks Plan has been posted for citizen review and comment. The final version of the Parks Plan will also be posted.

City Council: Upon acceptance of the Parks Plan by the PRGAB recommended the plan to the City Council for approval and publicly presented. Following the formal presentation, a City Council public hearing was held to solicit citizen input prior to the Plan's adoption.

Plan Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives below, in conjunction with related recommendations (Chapter 7) and action steps (Chapter 8), enable this vision to be carried out by City staff, elected officials, and community volunteers.

Goal 1: Provide park and open space opportunities to all residents.

Objectives

- Provide adequate land for future development by placing a priority on land acquisition.
- Develop a system of parks and recreation facilities that meet current and future needs of the citizens of Raleigh.
- Provide facilities and programs that serve a broad cross-section of the City's residents.
- Develop recreational facilities that are universally accessible (ADA compliant) to all citizens.
- Develop recreational facilities that are within close proximity of all residents.

Goal 2: Provide a diverse, well-balanced, well-maintained range of recreational facilities.

Objectives

- Develop park and recreational facilities that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities and that offer varied experiences to residents within close proximity to their home.
- Encourage effective and citizen-responsive use of City recreational facilities and programs
- Capitalize on the value of park and recreation facilities to improve the overall aesthetic character of the City and as a means of promoting livability.

Goal 3: Optimize the appreciation, use and stewardship of Raleigh's historic, cultural and natural resource heritage.

Objectives

- Promote and ensure stewardship of Raleigh's natural resources
- Develop and maintain parks and greenways using nationally-accepted sustainable design principles and best management practices.
- Promote preserve and ensure protection of Raleigh's cultural and historic resources.
- Develop environmental education and interpretive facilities.

Goal 4: Provide the opportunity for community involvement.

Objectives

- Ensure meaningful public participation in the planning of park facilities.
- Inform citizens of plans and available services to promote active participation in the success and future direction of the parks system.
- Develop leisure opportunities that are responsive to the needs of Raleigh's citizens.
- Encourage volunteerism and other forms of private sector involvement.

Goal 5: Encourage intergovernmental collaboration.

Objectives

- Continue to pursue additional opportunities to coordinate and cooperate with Wake County, the Wake County Public School System, neighboring municipalities, the State of North Carolina and Federal agencies (e.g. US Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Highway Administration) in the acquisition, development and use of parks and recreational facilities.

Goal 6: Encourage private recreation initiatives to supplement public facilities.

Objectives

- Explore opportunities to encourage the private sector, both for-profit and not-for-profit, to provide additional depth and breadth of recreational facilities and activities.
- Partner with the private sector to provide recreational needs that the public sector cannot or is not providing.

Demographics

The City of Raleigh is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Raleigh more than doubled. In the past decade, the population of Raleigh and its planning jurisdiction grew by 28.2 percent, from 237,056 to 303,971. It is projected that the area within Raleigh's extraterritorial jurisdiction will grow by approximately two percent each year in the foreseeable future and that by the year 2025, Raleigh's population will exceed 541,000.

Recreation Participation and Preference Survey

A Recreation Participation Preference Survey was mailed to a random sample of 5,500 Raleigh households. The total response rate formed a statistically sound sample and was also representative of the results of the 2000 Census. The survey asked citizens to report their participation in many activities found within the parks system in the past 12 months and their overall interest in these activities. These data were compiled and analyzed to determine the current demand (actual participation) and the latent demand (representing the difference between actual participation and desired participation) for each activity. A full explanation of survey results can be found in Chapter 5 and latent demand for each activity can be found in Chapter 6.

Existing Conditions

At present, the City of Raleigh is home to over 7,700 acres of parkland and Greenways that allow opportunities for active and passive recreation and provide urban open spaces within the community. This system includes a broad range of dedicated parks that are classified in the following manner:

- Mini Parks (14)
- Neighborhood Parks (37)
- Community Parks (21)
- Metro Parks (8)
- Wetlands and Ecological Preserves (0; typically included within other categories)
- Special Parks (101)

Each park type currently includes guidelines for size, service area, character, and a range of typical facilities. Special Parks include undeveloped urban open space, outdoor theaters and places of special cultural and historical significance. These unique facilities add to the great variety of recreational opportunities offered by the City to its residents and are thus an important part of the overall parks system.

Needs Analysis

Recreation facility needs were determined in this plan by calculating three estimates: latent demand, population service requirement, and level of service. The first estimate indicates a possible level of latent demand that exists; this is the difference between the proportions of the participants using facilities in Raleigh and the proportions of those residents in the community that have a high to very high interest in an activity but are not currently participating in a given activity. Next, a population service requirement was determined to provide an estimate of the number of individuals served annually by the current facilities and services. Finally, the level of service (LOS) that current facilities provide for the current population was determined. These calculations are evaluated to determine the quantity of facilities needed to satisfy participation of residents with a high to very high interest in an activity who are not currently participating. As a means of verifying the accuracy of the results of these three calculations, input received during public meetings, comments submitted, staff reports and discussions with the PRGAB were reviewed with respect to the facility needs to ensure that plan recommendations would reflect the desires of the community.

Estimates of needed facilities for activities, as well as overall parkland acreage by park classification are projected for future needs based on projected population growth. In establishing the current LOS for a given activity, results from the resident survey were used to estimate participation and interests in various activities. These results will require ongoing evaluation by park planners to determine optimal strategies for meeting unmet demands; these strategies will likely include a combination of facility development, program expansion, and partnering opportunities to expand programming to satisfy unmet demand.

It is important to understand these estimates within the overall context of the Parks Plan. Although these estimates are derived from the recreation participation preference survey, numerous other factors will affect what is actually developed in the coming years. It will be necessary for park planners to continually consider:

- Degree of consistency between the public input received at meetings, through other correspondence and feedback, and from the survey results.

- Evaluation of actual population change over time versus population growth projections; and changes in recreational trends and, thus, facility needs over time.
- Staff interpretation of the results with respect to barriers to participation. (e.g. Are there existing vacancies / underutilization of facilities for which latent demand has been identified? If so, why? Can increased marketing of programs improve awareness?)
- Alternatives to building additional facilities. (e.g. Are there opportunities to collaborate with nearby communities or private groups who could provide the unmet demand for certain recreational activities? Can programs be developed utilizing existing facilities?)

Choices will need to be made since it is unlikely that the Raleigh parks system will be able to develop facilities to accommodate all of the latent demand for all recreational activities. Park planners should focus on providing a wide range of facilities within parks and seeking creative ways in which private facilities and partnerships with other municipalities or organizations can supplement the City's facilities.

Facility Recommendations

The recommendations of this plan are included in Chapter 7 and have been organized to respond to the goals and objectives summarized above and in Chapter 4. These recommendations are intended to:

- provide guidance to elected officials, city-appointed bodies, citizens, staff, as well as private sector participants in coordinating Parks and Greenway planning with other city planning and development efforts
- establish a structure by which park facilities can be developed with a consistent level of quality yet allow for flexibility and variation at the master planning level for each park unit;
- set the appropriate number of parks, by classification, that will be required by the year 2025 in order to meet LOS targets;
- identify specific ways in which the City can strive to develop or enhance stewardship programs, community involvement and partnership opportunities; and,
- provide the planners and officials within the Parks and Recreation Department with the necessary tools to further evaluate and weigh the needs of the community on balance with physical and financial constraints as they strive to provide the best possible facilities to the citizens of Raleigh.

Specific recommendations include:

Place a Priority on Land Acquisition: Recognizing that prime lands for Natural Areas and park development are disappearing quickly within the ETJ, it is recommended that the City seek every opportunity to acquire these prime lands as they become available.

Provide a Balanced Dedicated Usage of Parkland: The City needs to institute a process by which the System Integration Plans (SIP) and Master Plans of all existing and future parklands clearly delineate the intended use for the park, and set aside lands for future recreational development and resource conservation.

Provide an Equitable Distribution of Facilities Across the Community: This recommendation addresses the rationale for the spatial distribution of recommended parks across the City. It also recommended that, while still maintaining a long-term goal of providing Neighborhood Parks within ½ mile of all residents, an initial goal of providing Neighborhood Parks within one mile of residents be instituted first.

Plan For Flexibility: This recommendation outlines a parks classification system that includes a recommended base set of facilities to be included in each park within a classification and additional recreational facilities that would be appropriate for each classification but would be intentionally varied between parks in order to provide a greater range of activities to users within a given area of the City.

Incorporate Universal Design: All phases of new park facility planning and implementation should reflect universal design principles as a primary goal. Existing parks should also be examined for their ADA compliance; and a process should be developed within renovation and maintenance programs to bring all parks into compliance.

Recommended Parks Classifications: Five basic park classifications are recommended to meet the diverse recreational needs of Raleigh's citizens into the future.

- Natural Areas:** Both Conservation Areas and Greenway Corridors are contained within Natural Areas to ensure that Raleigh's natural and cultural resources be conserved for future generations. Conservation Areas will be implemented as an overlay concept that allows portions or entire units of existing and future parklands within other classifications to receive a stewardship plan. While no service area distances are identified for this classification, Greenways are recommended to include the lands on either side of the stream top of bank at a distance of 100', or the entire delineated floodplain area on either side of the stream centerline, whichever distance is greater.
- Neighborhood Parks:** Serve the daily recreational needs of citizens.
Range in size from 5 to 25 acres
Serve residents within a ½ -mile radius
This classification also has the potential of utilizing existing Mini Parks as a supplement to Neighborhood Parks where land of sufficient size is not available. Enhancing existing Mini Parks to provide recreational opportunities at a level comparable to other Neighborhood Parks could allow them to serve, and be counted as, Neighborhood Parks.
- Community Parks:** Provide many of the features of Neighborhood Parks as well as additional features that meet expanded or unique recreational needs.
Range in size from 30-75 Acres
Serve residents within a two-mile radius
- Metro Parks:** Provide a leisure or recreational opportunity, which, either by size or scale or theme, will appeal to a majority of citizens. Examples include Lake Wheeler and Pullen Park.
- Special Parks:** Includes facilities such as Cultural and Civic Centers and remnant City parcels. Special Parks often fulfill important recreational niches, but due to their wide variety of facilities, do not carry level of service, size or proximity requirements.

Develop New/Upgraded Parks: The following tables summarize the recommended new parks by classification, based on Level of Service and spatial distribution goals.

City-Wide Current and Proposed LOS Goals and Needs

Classification	Existing Acres	Existing Number of Parks	LOS Standard (Ac/1000)	Additional Needed Acres by 2025	Projected Park Size	New Parks Needed to Meet 2025 LOS	Total Parks Needed by 2025
Neighborhood Parks	518.16	42*	2.6	860.76**	20 ac	43	85
Community Parks	1203.78	21	3.1	476.09	60 ac	8	29
Metro Parks	2268.52	8	4.2	7.44	300 ac	0	8
Special Parks	918.33	101	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	101
Greenway Corridors	2578.52	N/A	N/A	3450	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	7487.31	172	9.9	4794.29	N/A	51	223

* Includes five School Parks that are recognized as currently serving community needs as Neighborhood Parks

** Presumes six acres equivalent for each of five school parks currently functioning as Neighborhood Parks

City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill LOS by Year

Classification	New Parks Required to Meet LOS				Total New Parks Needed by 2025 to meet LOS
	2002	2005	2015	2025	
Neighborhood Parks	12	7	12	12	43
Community Parks*			3	5	8
Metro Parks*					0

* Consider acquisition of Community and Metro parklands if opportunities and/or conditions are appropriate and consistent with anticipated future needs.

Utilize Recommended Facilities Per Park: This section outlines recommended facilities to be included within each Neighborhood, Community and Metro Park. These recommendations serve as a guide to the master planning of new facilities and to renovation planning for existing facilities.

Evaluate the Need for Public Swimming Pools: This section outlines the current facilities, previous studies and expressed demand for public swimming facilities. A basic structure for further study by the City to address these needs is recommended.

Utilize Facility Space Guidelines: Space requirements for each activity typically found in parks and recommendations regarding orientation of fields and field size options to meet various sports regulations are provided.

Enhance Access to and Awareness of Raleigh's Recreation Opportunities: Raleigh parks system currently includes a wide variety of recreational opportunities of which many residents may not be aware. The City needs to set a primary goal of increasing awareness of these to promote public involvement in the park and recreation system and encourage active living, which can offer significant health benefits.

Improving the Aesthetic Character of the City and Promoting Livability: The ultimate livability of the City of Raleigh depends upon numerous factors, many of which have ties to parks and recreation opportunities and the overall aesthetic quality of City-owned lands. These recommendations stress that by treating elements such as urban rights-of-way, alternative transportation routes and trails and natural areas as high-quality urban amenities Raleigh can become a more livable community.

Encourage Stewardship of Parklands and Awareness of Ecological Principles: A dedicated focus on parkland Stewardship within the Department is recommended to become one of the key elements in both the continued maintenance and upgrading of existing facilities as well as in the System Integration Planning and Master Planning processes of all new parkland. The City's environmental stewardship and conservation efforts should complement similar efforts being undertaken by Wake County and adjacent municipalities. These recommendations recognize that while the City of Raleigh has the immediate responsibility for resources within its City limits, ecological systems do not recognize these boundaries; thus there is great benefit to coordinated, complementary efforts by entities throughout the region.

Promote, Preserve and Ensure Protection of Raleigh's Cultural and Historic Resources: Cultural and historic resources within the community also provide a unique opportunity for the Raleigh parks and recreation department to provide varied recreational and leisure opportunities for its citizens. Facilities such as historic homes, performing arts and arts education centers and public places with cultural themes can provide alternative opportunities to active recreation facilities and represent prime opportunities for community interaction and partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

Provide Environmental Education Opportunities: In conjunction with a commitment to the conservation and stewardship of natural lands, environmental education efforts will help to educate the Citizens of Raleigh about the ecological systems and processes within their own neighborhood. More affective advertisement to make citizens aware of these current opportunities is also recommended.

Encourage Public Involvement: The success of the parks and recreation system depends upon the support and involvement of the entire community. Recommendations are made to ensure that parks master planning engages surrounding neighborhoods and addresses community needs. Both national and local trends should also be tracked to encourage new park development and renovations to remain synchronized with public demand.

Utilize School Parks: This recommendation highlights the great opportunity to partner with the Wake County Public School System in order to provide Neighborhood Park facilities to underserved areas of the community while enhancing school lands.

Collaborate and Partner with other Communities and Agencies: The City of Raleigh is committed to providing a very broad range of recreational opportunities and the best possible service; however, every service or facility that residents' request cannot be provided. It is important to recognize that parkland and recreation facilities belonging to adjacent communities, as well as County, State and Federal agencies, can often fulfill some of these needs. Partnerships with non-profit groups and athletic clubs and with private corporations can also meet some of this demand. These collaborations

and partnerships are very important to the success of the Parks Plan as outlined in Chapter 6. Building strong partnerships will alleviate some demand for resources and allow the City to allocate funds to other needed facilities in its effort to provide a diverse and well balanced parks and recreation system

Collaborate with Non-Profit Groups, Athletic Clubs and the Private Sector: As it may not be possible or desirable to satisfy the recreational needs of the community with City resources alone, the City is recommended to explore ways in which non-profit groups and athletic organizations can support the City's initiatives to meet Level of Service (LOS) goals.

Priorities for Implementation

The following priorities are intended as a guide to the City as it pursues the LOS goals and recommendations of the Parks Plan. The implementation of the Parks Plan will simultaneously require systematic approaches on many fronts in order to succeed. This will also require the City to seize opportunities as they arise to secure parklands, funding and partnerships that become available.

SHORT RANGE - 1 - 2 YEARS	POLICY	ACQUISITION*	DEVELOPMENT*
	Adopt the Parks Plan	Develop strategy and acquire land for new Neighborhood Parks to achieve the goal of one-mile service area coverage throughout the ETJ and in keeping with population growth	Evaluate Schools parks and identify potential improvements in collaboration with Wake County Public School System
	Adopt Greenway Corridor modification	Acquire land for new Community Parks when opportunities arise	Evaluate existing park system marketing programs and develop strategies to increase awareness of Raleigh's extensive existing facilities and program opportunities
	Implement revised Facility Fee structure	Acquire land for new Metro Parks when opportunities arise	
	Implement Land Dedication and Fees-in-Lieu of dedication		
	Identify strategies that enable protection of natural resources through environmental stewardship and sustainable design practices		
	Continue reinvesting in existing parks to maintain facilities		

* Acquisition and Development priorities are graphically depicted in the table "City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill LOS by Year" found on page 40.

MEDIUM RANGE - 1-10 YEARS	POLICY	ACQUISITION*	DEVELOPMENT*
	Implement strategies for assessing and addressing citizen expectations and revising the Parks Plan and funding levels	Continue acquiring land for Neighborhood Parks to fill in gaps of service areas	Delineate Natural Areas (Conservation Areas within existing parks, and new Conservation Areas in acquisitions
	Conduct the recommended pool study	Acquire land for new Community Parks	Prepare and implement stewardship plans for Conservation Areas
	Continue reinvesting in existing parks to maintain facilities	Acquire land for new Metro Parks when opportunities arise	Upgrade selected Mini Parks to Neighborhood Parks
			Develop twelve new Neighborhood Parks to meet the current deficit, giving priority to areas that are underserved
			Develop Multi-Use trails within Greenways to expand recreational opportunities and to create a complete trail system

* Acquisition and Development priorities are graphically depicted in the table "City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill LOS by Year" found on page 40.

LONG RANGE – 1-20 YEARS	POLICY	ACQUISITION*	DEVELOPMENT*
	Utilize the Parks Plan, Master Plan and System Integration Plan process in all new park planning efforts	Pursue a dedicated, persistent strategy of acquiring parklands	Develop Neighborhood Parks to achieve the goal of ½ mile service area coverage throughout the ETJ
	Ensure public involvement in all Master Plan and System Integration Plan endeavors	Seek and acquire land with outstanding natural resources	Seek additional opportunities to make the outstanding resources of State and Federal agencies accessible to Raleigh residents
	Utilize the development of new park facilities and upgrading of existing facilities to enhance the aesthetic character of the City and to promote livability	Continue acquiring land for Neighborhood Parks to reach the ultimate goal of one-half mile service areas	Develop new parks in a manner that ensures universal access to recreation facilities
	Continue reinvesting in existing parks to maintain facilities	Acquire land for new Community Parks	Develop swimming facilities per the results of the swimming pool study
	Actively promote, preserve and protect Raleigh's historic and cultural resources	Acquire land for new Metro Parks when opportunities arise	Develop Forest Ridge Park on Falls Lake as a Metro Park in coordination with USACE
			Evaluate existing parks with respect to ADA compliance and develop a process for upgrading these facilities

* Acquisition and Development priorities are graphically depicted in the table "City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill LOS by Year" found on page 40.

Latent Demand

The survey results from the interest question provide a means for rating activities from the least to the most important activity based on the proportion of residents having a high interest in the activity (Table 1). A comparison of level of participation and level of interest provides an indication of where there is an opportunity for improving the availability of facilities or services. For example, currently 17.7% of the population in Raleigh participated in "picnicking with family" during the past 12 months. When compared to those *interested* in "picnicking with family," it is found that 51.7 percent of the respondents were very interested or extremely interested in this activity. Comparing these results, it seems that about 34.0 percent of the population that is interested have not been picnicking with their family in the past 12 months:

51.7 % interested
- 17.7 % participated
34.0% latent demand

The latent demand can be used as a guide toward recommendations for future programming or facilities. There are three indicators that should be considered in the decision-making process. First, those activities having the largest proportion of the population with a very high or extreme interest (greater than 20%) should be considered for resource allocations. Second, those activities where the participation percentage is less than half the percentage with a very high or extreme interest should also be considered. Finally, those activities where the latent demand is greater than 20 percent of the population are targets for consideration. Activities that need to have special consideration during the decision process for the development of new facilities or programs for the department are those activities that meet all three of these criteria. Activities meeting these criteria have been bolded in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Activity Interest, Participation and Latent Demand for Raleigh residents during 2002

Activity	% Interest (extreme-v/high)*	% Participation 12 months**	Latent Demand*
Viewing wildlife	58.9%	22.5%	36.3%
Arts/craft classes	38.1%	3.8%	34.3%
Picnicking with family	51.7%	17.7%	34.1%
Walking in natural area	73.0%	39.1%	33.8%
Arts show/festival	54.8%	22.2%	32.6%
Canoeing/Rowing	40.2%	8.3%	31.9%
Picnicking with groups	43.2%	12.5%	30.7%
Outdoor Performance	55.4%	25.4%	30.0%
Fitness-related Classes	33.8%	4.3%	29.5%
Using fitness trail	53.3%	25.3%	28.0%
Sprayground/water park	29.7%	2.1%	27.6%
Using Pedal boats	31.7%	6.5%	25.2%
Nature Study	29.6%	4.4%	25.2%
Indoor Performance	41.7%	17.1%	24.6%
Eating Lunch	56.1%	31.6%	24.6%
Sailing	25.9%	2.8%	23.1%
Playing Tennis	32.6%	10.0%	22.6%
Visiting greenways	47.6%	25.3%	22.4%
Kite Flying	27.8%	5.5%	22.3%
Photography	34.9%	12.9%	22.0%
Fishing	30.2%	8.9%	21.3%
Jogging	40.5%	20.9%	19.6%
Bicycling	41.9%	23.4%	18.5%
Playing volleyball	23.2%	4.7%	18.5%
Reading Outdoors	37.5%	20.4%	17.1%
Walking Pets	42.3%	25.9%	16.4%
Looking at gardens	45.8%	30.1%	15.7%
Playing Softball	22.0%	6.7%	15.3%
Watching sports	37.3%	22.1%	15.2%
Playing Frisbee	24.6%	9.6%	15.0%
Playing Golf	22.9%	8.4%	14.5%
Mountain biking	26.4%	12.1%	14.3%

Activity	% Interest (extreme-v/high)*	% Participation 12 months**	Latent Demand*
Playing Baseball	16.2%	2.3%	13.9%
Fitness/team swimming	21.4%	7.6%	13.8%
Playing Soccer	22.0%	9.0%	13.0%
Playing Football	16.7%	3.8%	12.9%
Roller/inline Skating	22.3%	9.9%	12.4%
Summer Camp	14.9%	2.5%	12.3%
Walking along trail	74.5%	62.3%	12.2%
Playing Horseshoes	15.3%	3.1%	12.2%
Playing basketball	23.5%	11.5%	12.1%
Playing Disc golf	13.8%	3.9%	9.9%
Bird Watching	23.2%	15.6%	7.6%
Playing Shuffleboard	7.9%	0.5%	7.4%
Skateboarding	7.4%	1.2%	6.2%
Trackout camp	6.4%	0.6%	5.7%
Playing at playground	35.5%	31.3%	4.2%
*Bold > 20%		**Bold<50% of Interest, Bold Italics <20% of Interest, but >50% Participation	

Population Service Requirement

The population service requirement combines the available supply and the current demand generated by residents of Raleigh. The calculations provide estimates of the number of individuals served annually by the current facilities and services. The total demand (current proportion of the population having a very high or extreme interest) can be calculated by multiplying the proportion of the sample that has a very high to extreme interest in an activity by the population of the community. This estimate of total demand is conservative in as much as there are persons in Raleigh who have an interest in an activity and they are participants. The number of current residents being served is calculated by multiplying the proportion of the sample participating in an activity by the current population of Raleigh. Using "picnicking with family" as the example:

306,252 current population of Raleigh
x .177
54,207 persons

Similarly, total demand (number of persons wanting to participate) can be calculated by multiplying the proportion of the sample that has a very high or extreme interest in an activity by the population of the community.

306,252 current population of Raleigh
x .517
158,332 persons

This calculation provides an estimate of total demand, or the number of persons who would like to participate. Results of these calculations for all activities are listed in Table 2. The number of current residents being served is calculated by multiplying the proportion of the sample participating in an activity by the current population but does not address the barriers to participation. It cannot be over emphasized that participation is certainly a function of access to facilities, but it is also dependent upon time and equipment availability, skills, abilities, and residents' awareness of opportunities. For

Table 17: Weighted Activity Participation, Interest and Latent Demand

Activity	% Participation** 12 months	% Interested*** (extreme-v/high)	% Latent Demand*
Using fitness trail	8.08	42.83	34.76
Viewing wildlife	14.08	47.96	33.88
Walking in a natural area	28.84	60.39	31.54
Fitness-related classes	5.35	35.30	29.95
Art/crafts classes	3.42	32.38	28.96
CPR / First Aid classes	3.53	31.31	27.78
Walking along trail	35.60	62.45	26.85
Picnicking with family	26.60	53.24	26.64
Visiting greenways	15.11	37.34	22.22
Swim lessons	6.28	28.35	22.07
Fishing	9.32	30.54	21.22
Swimming in a pool	27.05	48.17	21.12
Art show or festival	25.07	45.56	20.50
Cooking classes	1.47	21.95	20.48
Eating lunch at a park	29.16	48.84	19.68
Nature study	2.82	22.37	19.55
Dancing classes	3.17	21.97	18.80
Indoor performance	11.15	29.81	18.66
Picnicking with groups	17.54	34.40	16.86
Attending workshops	5.87	21.80	15.93
Water aerobics	4.71	18.86	14.16
Photography	6.84	20.86	14.02
Bicycling	18.65	32.54	13.89
Summer camp	3.52	17.38	13.87
Outdoor performance	36.14	48.96	12.82
Preschool classes	3.16	15.92	12.75
Playing tennis	11.63	24.15	12.52
Jogging	12.29	23.93	11.64
Playing volleyball	1.82	13.33	11.51
Dog obedience classes	1.87	12.71	10.84
Walking pets	17.78	28.55	10.76
Reading outdoors	13.88	23.89	10.00
Karate classes	1.75	11.49	9.74
Kite flying	9.38	19.08	9.70
Playing soccer	6.16	15.23	9.06
Family reunions	3.78	12.82	9.04
Playing basketball	11.43	19.55	8.11
Playing football	3.60	11.34	7.74
Playing softball	7.81	15.55	7.74
Playing baseball	10.73	17.80	7.07
Bird watching	9.76	16.74	6.98
Special event/field trip	15.35	20.52	5.18
Frisbee	9.92	14.20	4.28
Watching sports events	27.81	29.18	1.37
Playing cards/games	9.79	10.54	0.76
Playing at a playground	52.97	46.16	-6.81
Other	2.79	7.06	
Teen programs/club		12.46	12.46
Playing street hockey		11.90	11.90
Playing sand volleyball		10.99	10.99
Archery classes		10.82	10.82
Calligraphy classes		8.15	8.15
Cheerleading		6.65	6.65

*Bolted Latent Demand is > 20%

**Bolted Participation is < 10% and Latent Demand > 20%

***Bolted Interest is > 3 times level of Participation

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department

Mission Statement

The purpose of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department is to actively encourage, provide, promote, and protect quality leisure, recreation and cultural opportunities, facilities and environments that are essential for the enhancement of the lives of the citizens of Raleigh and surrounding municipalities.

2003 CLASS Registrations

Study Area: 5 mile service area around Forest Ridge; Wake Forest ETJ; North and Northeast Planning Districts

	Class	Total Registrations
1	Aquatic Preschool Swim Class	535
2	District B Youth Basketball	489
3	Aquatics Adult Punch Pass	459
4	Aquatic School Age Swim Class	455
5	Wildwood Forest Summer X-Press	427
6	Green Road Summer X-Press	327
7	East Millbrook Middle Summer X-Press	315
8	Leesville Road Middle Summer X-Press	292
9	Lions Park Summer X-Press	257
10	Millbrook Youth Baseball	253
11	Millbrook Exchange Summer X-Press	245
12	Optimist Summer X-Press	245
13	Swim Team - Intra-City Swim Association	239
14	Aquatic Water Exercise Pass	215
15	Teen X-treme Camp Brentwood	214
16	Youth Escape School at Green Road	213
17	SummerCamp.com	202
18	Jaycee Summer X-Press	187
19	Weight Room at Green Road	182
20	Camp Ranoca Challenge	173
21	Aquatics Toddler Punch Pass	169
22	Camp Ranoca North	159
23	Teen X-Treme Camp Eastgate	150
24	Basketball - Summer Leagues	141
25	Music - Very Young Musicians	139
26	18th Annual Halloween Trail	137
27	Green Road Youth Baseball	133
28	Aquatic Infant & Toddler Swim Class	127
29	Method Road Summer X-Press	126
30	Optimist Youth Baseball	122
31	Senior Bingo	113
32	Cheerleading - Cheer America	112
33	Chavis Center Summer X-Press	106
34	Youth Basketball 2005	104
35	Lake Lynn Summer X-Press	103
36	Adult Softball	102
37	After School X-Press	100
38	Laurel Hills Summer X-Press	100
39	Lake Lynn Daypark	98
40	Halloween Spooktacular	93

2004 CLASS Registrations

Study Area: 5 mile service area around Forest Ridge; Wake Forest ETJ; North and Northeast Planning Districts

	Class	Total Registrations
1	Aquatics Adult Punch Pass	567
2	District B Youth Basketball	543
3	Baseball Spring Youth League District B	520
4	Aquatic Preschool Swim Class	468
5	Green Road Summer X-Press	454
6	East Millbrook Middle Summer X-Press	438
7	Wildwood Forest Summer X-Press	426
8	Aquatic School Age Swim Class	379
9	Aquatic Water Exercise Pass	338
10	Tot Time	331
11	Optimist Summer X-Press	326
12	Millbrook Exchange Summer X-Press	294
13	Camp Ranoca North	251
14	Swim Team - Intra-City Swim Association	242
15	Weight Room at Green Road	239
16	Basketball - Summer Leagues	229
17	Bingo at Green Road for Seniors	227
18	Youth Escape School at Green Road	223
19	SummerCamp.com	208
20	Dist A Youth Baseball & Softball	186
21	Leesville Road Middle Summer X-Press	180
22	Camp Ranoca Challenge	169
23	Raleigh Grand Prix Sngl Tennis Challenge	157
24	Aquatic Infant & Toddler Swim Class	152
25	Teen X-treme Camp Brentwood	140
26	Aquatics Toddler Punch Pass	137
27	Senior Friends at Lake Lynn	135
28	Chavis Center Summer X-Press	134
29	Karate - Okinawan Shorin-Ruy	132
30	After School X-Press	129
31	55+ Club	126
32	Jaycee Summer X-Press	126
33	Adult Softball	125
34	Method Road Summer X-Press	124
35	Teen X-Treme Camp Eastgate	124
36	Bingo Bonanza	120
37	Halloween Spooktacular	118
38	Youth Escape School at Optimist Center	117
39	SELF Afterschool Program	112
40	Weight Room at Millbrook	106

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 5, August 24, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft Mission Statements by Committee

COMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - August 24, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: August 24, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary VanHaaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice-Chair
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Diane Sauer	P & R– Recreation Superintendent
Kathy Capps	Parks and Rec. Department
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
George Stanziale	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly

Purpose: The meeting was held to commence the mission statement development and programming phase of the Forest Ridge Park Master Planning process.

- 1) The committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes from project meetings #3 and #4.
- 2) Anna Smith suggested that committee members' names be used in the meeting minute comments.
- 3) Libby Wilcox stated that she thinks it would be beneficial to return to the site in January to view the site from a different seasonal perspective.
- 4) Vic introduced a new Master Plan Team member, Billy Totten, District Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.
- 5) George Stanziale introduced the next steps for the meeting: Mission Statement development and Program development. George explained that the mission statement conveys the ideas, feelings and thoughts about "how we want to accomplish this park." The program elements are the physical pieces and uses that will go into the park. The program elements should be consistent with the mission statement. George further explained that the mission statement and the program elements would drive the concept plan development for the park.

- 6) The mission statement process involved breaking the committee into three groups to brainstorm mission statement ideas. After lists of ideas were generated and shared with the entire group, each group had 15 minutes to develop a draft mission statement. Three mission statements were generated and shared with the entire group. [Reference attached Mission Statement Summary] Committee members answered general questions to each other and made general comments regarding the mission statement and programming in general:
 - a. Debra Pribonic defined “preserving community” as being sensitive to the neighborhoods that exist adjacent to the park.
 - b. Tom McHugh pointed out that the relationship of the site to the water is very unique and very important and should be up front in the mission statement.
 - c. Anthony Pilarinos would like to make sure that the spirit of “fun” is expressed in the mission statement.
 - d. Mary Alice expressed that she hopes for the mission statement to be written in a manner that “gives people a feeling of comfort” and is written in clear and inviting words.
 - e. Vic informed the group that Council dictates that no new marina is allowed on the site.
 - f. Charles Rinker wants to emphasize minimum impact of the park on to surrounding neighbors.
 - g. Tom McHugh asked if there would be a possibility for providing a sculling facility. Vic said yes, this is a possibility.
 - h. Anna Smith asked if there is any formal limit for structure size/heights.
 - i. Ed Teague would like the mission statement to emphasize the relationship between nature and the community.
 - j. Anthony Pilarinos would like the mission statement to be people-centric and to talk about the needs it will be serving.
- 7) It was agreed that Haden Stanziale would look at the three mission statements that were generated by committee members during the meetings, and synthesize into one or two mission statements to be presented for discussion at the start of the next meeting.
- 8) Anthony Pilarinos would like the next meeting to start with a review of latent needs—Vic agreed.
- 9) Susan Simpson handed out Wake Forest Recreation Survey Results.
- 10) Next meeting dates were identified as September 14th and 28th.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA’s understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

Mission Statement Development

Blue Herons

- Natural Preservation
- Harmony with nature and community with access to many
- Family oriented
- Environmentally friendly
- Emphasize unique aspects
 - Falls Lake
 - Views
- Educational
- Passive/Low Impact Recreation

The goal of the Master Plan Committee for Forest Ridge Park is to create a park that promotes harmony between nature and community and provides access and enjoyment for all. The focus of the park will be to preserve the integrity of the natural resources with emphasis on preservation, stewardship, education and appreciation of the beauty of Falls Lake.

Water People

- Provide connection/relationship to the water
- Activities that complement the natural beauty and resources of Forest Ridge
- Provide outdoor recreation consistent with the natural environment
- Improve quality of life for the citizens of Northern Wake County
- This park connects seamlessly to other parks and resources in the area
- Provide outdoor education and promote environmental stewardship
- Promote the continuation of the natural habitat
- Protect cultural artifacts
- Accentuate scenic opportunity

The goal of the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan Committee is to develop a plan that:

- 1) Recognizes, promotes and protects the natural, cultural, scenic resources of the entire peninsula and surrounding lake
- 2) Provides natural resource based outdoor recreational activities
- 3) Encourages seamless integration of all park lands and facilities
- 4) Enhances the quality of life for Wake County citizens

Red Herrings

Do's

- Family oriented
- Maintain and enhance natural beauty
- Multi-purpose recreation—land and water based
- Environmental Education

- Benefit the community, both local and larger community
- Preserve cultural elements
- Promote public health and fitness

Dont's

- Formal, organized league sports

Forest Ridge Park is a resource to the community that promotes quality of life through environmental stewardship of this unique natural resource. This is accomplished through sustainable utilization of natural land and water resources for family recreation, environmental education, health and fitness while maintaining and enhancing the natural beauty of the site.

Summary

The following commonalities were found among the three mission statements generated by the committee:

- Preservation of natural resources
- Environmental Education
- Family oriented
- Harmony between nature and community
- Serve and promote community while preserving neighborhoods
- Quality of life
- Maintain/enhance natural beauty
- Protection
- Cultural resources
- Connection (corridors) to park system/community
- Water access/water based
- Stewardship
- Natural habitat/preservation
- Seamless parks
- Passive/low impact
- Plan for all ages
- Multi purpose (land and water)
- Health and fitness
- Fun/recreation
- Scenic resources

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 6, September 14, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

COMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: September 14, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary VanHaaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice-Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Patrick Beggs	Parks and Rec Advisory Board
Jan Kirshbaum	Parks and Rec Advisory Board
Kathy Capps	Parks and Rec. Department
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
George Stanziale	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Ed Buchan	Triangle Off Road Cyclist
Bill Camp	Triangle Off Road Cyclist
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly

Purpose: The meeting was held to present, discuss and finalize the mission statement for the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan and to begin identifying potential program elements for the Park.

- 1) Meeting minutes from the August 24th meeting were voted on and unanimously approved.
- 2) Vic presented a review of latent demand as requested by Anthony Pilarinos at the August 24th meeting. Vic disseminated a chart from the Raleigh Parks Plan illustrating the “Activity interest, Participation and Latent Demand for Raleigh residents during 2002.” These data were collected via a survey which asked two questions: “*What activities do you participate in?*” and “*What do you desire to do?*” The results showed “*What I am doing*” vs. “*What I would like to do.*” The difference between the two equals “Latent Demand.” Vic explained that latent demand is a guideline of activities desired but are either lacking, not offered or not pursued due to conflicts with competing interests/desires. It is an indicator/guideline only.

- 3) Committee members discussed and edited the Mission Statement. The mission statement was finalized and unanimously approved as read by Anthony Pilarinos:

Forest Ridge Park will strive to complement and contribute to the surrounding community as well as to the greater Raleigh Park System and Falls Lake by offering unique outdoor experiences.

The Master Plan for Forest Ridge Park will focus on embracing the potential of the site while being sensitive to and preserving existing natural and cultural resources. The Park will promote a healthy and high quality lifestyle by providing diverse recreational and educational activities where people can learn, discover and explore. The Park and its activities will function in harmony with the beauty of the site's natural resources, inspiring appreciation and stewardship toward the natural world.

- 4) George Stanziale introduced the process for developing program elements. He reminded committee members that the mission statement will guide the program elements and the program elements will help to achieve the mission statement. Committee members shared their ideas of passive vs. active recreational activities and then identified program elements including features, programs, and facilities that they would like to see on the site. The committee members identified the following potential program elements that will be further discussed and voted on at the next meeting:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE	FACILITIES
Lake Swimming	Fishing	Camping Lodge
Canoeing/Kayaking	Camping	Classroom facilities
Sailing	Picnicking	Adventure/educational center
Hiking	Nature Walks	Waterfront Center
Running/jogging	Bird watching	Boating facility (non motorized)
Mountain Biking (single track)	Bird and butterfly garden	Picnic shelters
Biking (i.e. along greenway)	Overlooks(ADA accessibility)	Restrooms
Disc Golf	Wildlife Habitat Enhancements	Maintenance facility
Challenge course	Art Programming	Informal amphitheater
Skateboarding	Cultural Interpretation	
Playground	Public Art	
Multi-use field		
Rowing/sculling		
Climbing wall		
Orienteering		
Whitewater Park*		
Horseback Riding		
Tennis		
Volleyball		

*(Whitewater Park planned as separate adjacent project located at the dam)

- 5) Charles Rinker asked about access issues. These issues will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 6) Ed Teague expressed that he would like to discuss operational aspects (access, security etc) of the Park that he feels need to be considered prior to developing designs.
- 7) The next meeting was scheduled for September 28th. A tentative meeting is scheduled for October 12th.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 7, September 28, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

Park Program Voting Results Summary

“Wakefield Community Concerns” presented by Committee Member Ed Teague

Friends of Mountain to Sea Trail (FMST) letter

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: September 28, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary VanHaaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice-Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Kathy Capps	Parks and Rec. Department
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Tiffany Long	Parks and Rec Department
Diane Sauer	Parks and Rec Department
Dale Smith	Parks and Rec Department
George Stanziale	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Bill Camp	Triangle Off Road Cyclist
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Javier Serna	The News and Observer
Hugh Fosbury	(no affiliation provided)

Purpose: The meeting was held to finalize the Park Program.

- 1) Mary Alice Farrell called the meeting to order.
- 2) The meeting started with a Public Input presentation by Bill Camp of 4601 Joiner Place, Raleigh, NC 27612. Bill represents Triangle Off Road Cyclists which is a chapter of SORBA—Southern Off Road Bike Association. The Triangle Off Road Cyclists are advocates of trails, green space, trail maintenance etc. Bill stated that the intent of his presentation was to ensure that mountain biking stayed on the list of program elements. He stated that there are zero miles of designated, legal, mountain biking trails in Raleigh. Non-sanctioned trails are not maintained properly. Survey results from the Raleigh Parks Plan indicated that 12.1% of the citizens have mountain biked in the past 12 months and that there is a latent demand of 14.3%. Bill explained that mountain bikers desire single track trails which are narrow trails through natural areas that give riders the experience of riding through the woods. There are now sustainable trail building strategies that have

been employed successfully in other parks (e.g. Little River Park in Orange County). It was also communicated that there are grant monies available to assist in funding the construction of trails. The bike group would maintain trails or work out an agreement with the City of Raleigh regarding maintaining the trails. Bill stated that it is ideal for mountain biking trails to be separate from other multi-use trails.

- 3) Deb Pribonic asked how the federal grant monies fit into Forest Ridge Park. Vic responded that issues of funding will be considered at the appropriate time.
- 4) Mary Alice Farrell asked about the minimum length required for a mountain bike trail. Bill responded that 5-6 mile minimum is desired to make it worthwhile for someone to come out for a ride.
- 5) Minutes from the September 14th committee meeting were voted on and unanimously approved.
- 6) Libby Wilcox made a motion to revisit the Mission Statement. The motion was seconded. Libby felt that the first sentence should be moved to the end. Libby passed out a revised mission statement and it was unanimously approved as presented:

The Master Plan for Forest Ridge Park will focus on embracing the potential of the site while being sensitive to and preserving existing natural and cultural resources. The Park will promote a healthy and high quality lifestyle by providing diverse recreational and educational activities, including unique outdoor experiences, where people can learn, discover and explore. The Park and its activities will function in harmony with the beauty of the site's natural resources, inspiring appreciation and stewardship toward the natural world. Forest Ridge Park will strive to complement and contribute to the surrounding community as well as to the greater Raleigh Parks system and Falls Lake.

- 7) George Stanziale presented process for voting.
- 8) Greg Barley made motion to hold an open ended discussion about program elements generated at the last meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Clarification was requested on the following elements:
 - Challenge Course-Mike Kafsky defined it as a multi-elemental high and low ropes course in a designated area of the park.
 - Lake swimming-Dedicated roped off area without lifeguards
 - Butterfly and bird garden-Open garden with no significant structures
 - Camping lodge-Size undetermined at this time
 - Restroom facilities-Shall be permanent structures
 - Waterfront Center-Facility next to water with deck—may or may not have concessions.
- 9) Motion to remove White Water Park from Program Elements list as it is a separate project. Motion was seconded and approved. White Water Park removed from Program Elements list prior to voting.
- 10) The following items were added to the list of Program Elements prior to voting:
 - a. K-12 Environmental Education
 - b. Meeting Facilities was added to Classroom Facilities making it Classroom/Meeting Facilities on the program elements list
- 11) Climbing wall was deleted as an individual element but combined with Adventure Course.
- 12) The voting process commenced with committee members placing a dot next to each item on the program elements charts indicating whether they felt that the specific element was high, medium, or low priority. There was an additional "no" column for committee members to use if they did not want a particular element in the park.
- 13) A question was raised regarding how to tally the votes. It was decided to weight each vote using the following point system:
 - a. High Priority = 3 points per vote
 - b. Medium Priority = 2 points per vote
 - c. Low Priority = 1 point per vote
 - d. No = -2 points per vote

(reference attached Voting Results Summary)

- 14) Charles Rinker made a motion to eliminate all negative and lowest scoring programs and the motion was seconded. The committee agreed and voted on items to remove. The following program elements were deleted after voting:
 - a. Disc Golf with a score of -1
 - b. Skateboarding with a score of -24
 - c. Horseback Riding with a score of 3
 - d. Tennis with a score of -13
 - e. Volleyball with a score of -2
- 15) Motion was made to stop eliminating after horseback riding were discussed. Motion was seconded and approved.
- 16) Ed Teague and Deb Pribonic passed out and presented Wakefield Community Concerns. They desired to communicate these concerns prior to any preliminary design for the site. They highlighted the following concerns:
 - a. No lighted sports complex
 - b. No large buildings
 - c. Concerned about increased traffic through residential area
 - d. Access through Old 98 (No!)
 - e. Multiple points of access desired to diffuse increased traffic along Old Highway 98
 - f. Access through Old Hwy 98 would make it look like a Wakefield Park
 - g. Buffers desired between Park and residential area
 - h. Push entrances back into the park
 - i. Security/operation times (safety/noise)
- 17) George Stanziale explained that the consultants would generate several conceptual schemes that would "test" the program elements on the site. The committee members will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the schemes prior to the development of a final master plan.
- 18) The next meeting was set for October 26th, 2005.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

FOREST RIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN
Program Elements Voting Results

ELEMENT	TOTAL	
Restrooms	45	
Picnicking	44	
Hiking	44	
Maintenance Facility	42	
Picnic Shelters	41	
Canoeing/Kayaking	41	
Overlooks (ADA accessibility)	40	
Nature Walks	39	
K-12 Environmental Education	38	
Running/Jogging	36	
Fishing	35	
Multi-Use Trail	34	
Wildlife Habitat Enhancements	33	
Mountain Biking (single track)	33	
Adventure/Educational Center	32	
Bird Watching	32	
Sailing	32	
Camping	30	
Lake Swimming	30	
Playground	29	
Rowing/sculling	29	
Bird and Butterfly Garden	27	
Classroom/Meeting Facilities	26	
Boating Facility (non motorized)	26	
Cultural Interpretation	25	
Orienteering	25	
Waterfront Center	24	
Camping Lodge	23	
Public Art	22	
Multi-Use Field	22	
Art Programming	20	
Informal Amphitheater	15	
Challenge Facility w/ climbing wall	15	
Climbing Wall	9	
Horseback Riding	3	DELETED
Disc Golf	-1	DELETED
Volleyball	-2	DELETED
Tennis	-13	DELETED
Skateboarding	-22	DELETED

Forest Ridge Input Park Elements

- Desired
 - Low impact/passive recreation
 - Emphasis on Falls Lake/water and natural beauty
 - Family oriented
 - Preservation of the natural habitat
 - Health and fitness (walking/jogging/biking etc.)
 - Some want educational element/others don't want or care

Forest Ridge Input Park Elements

- Other input
 - No support of organized sports (strong opinion)
 - No lighted ball fields
 - No major building complex

Forest Ridge Park Input Design & Operational Aspects

- Point of access
 - Alternative to Old 98 point of access (strong preference)
 - Increase in volume of traffic, safety and noise concerns
 - Old 98 is not a major highway, is viewed by local community as part of the subdivision
 - Other or multiple points of access would provide greater use/access of 600 acre site
 - Politically will position the park more as a metro park as opposed to a "Wakefield and related community park"

Forest Ridge Park Input Design & Operational Aspects

- Buffer areas between residential area and park elements
 - Needs to offer substantial isolation for the surrounding area
 - Entrance, parking lots, trails and major gathering areas should be appropriately located
- Park should be staffed
- Hours and access should be limited to insure/control occupancy
 - Safety and noise concerns

Forest Ridge Input

Park Elements

- Desired
 - Low impact/passive recreation
 - Emphasis on Falls Lake/water and natural beauty
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 - Preservation of the natural habitat
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Forest Ridge Park Input

Design & Operational Aspects

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 - Needs to offer substantial isolation for the surrounding area
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Forest Ridge Input

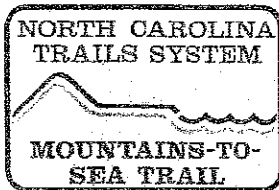
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Forest Ridge Park Input

Design & Operational Aspects

- Point of access
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 - Increase in volume of traffic, safety and noise concerns
 - Old 98 is not a major highway, is viewed by local community as part of the subdivision
 - Other or multiple points of access would provide greater use/access of 600 acre site
 - Politically will position the park more as a metro park as opposed to a “Wakefield and related community park”



Friends of The Mountains-to-Sea Trail

3585 US-401 South, Louisburg, NC 27549

Phone & Fax (919) 496-4771

July 1, 2005

Victor Lebsock
Raleigh Parks and Recreation
222 West Hargett Street, Suite 608
PO Box 590
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-0590

Dear Mr. Lebsock:

The Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) is North Carolina's flagship trail that extends from Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks. The trail is a 1,000-mile journey approximately halfway complete. Currently, over 450 miles of natural trail is in place. The remaining trail mostly follows North Carolina bicycle routes and other temporary paths. The trail's development began in 1973 when the North Carolina General Assembly passed the North Carolina Trails System Act.

The MST passes through 37 North Carolina counties. In the mountain region, counties include Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, McDowell, Burke, Avery, Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, and Wilkes. In the central region, the trail passes through Surry, Stokes, Forsyth, Guilford, Alamance, Orange, Durham, Wake, Franklin, and Nash. Coastal and island counties consist of Wilson, Johnston, Wayne, Greene, Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Pamlico, Cartaret, Hyde, and Dare.

The Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail (FMST) is a non-profit organization (501C-3) dedicated to making the vision of the MST a reality. Across the state, within the planned MST corridor, volunteer task forces are working hard to create new trail and maintain the existing trail. The FMST provides aid and assistance to those volunteers and the trail in various ways—supplying tools, promoting the trail to North Carolina's citizens, and working on agreements/plans with public and private agencies. The FMST's mission is to examine the history of the MST, assist with the leadership and development of task forces, identify issues, and plan for the future. Currently, the FMST partners with the National Park Service, US Forest Service, and NC State Parks and Recreation.

The MST brings great recreation and economic benefits to the North Carolina citizens hiking this trail. One project currently in development is the "MST East Plan", which outlines the continuation of the trail from Falls Lake in Wake County to Cedar Island along the Neuse River. This 250-mile section of the trail will offer recreation in the eastern part of the state that has not been offered in the past on the MST.

The Forest Ridge Park lies north of the MST East Plan trail corridor. We would like to recommend low impact campsites for thru-hikers. This park would connect to the MST and allow a thru-hiker to make a side trip to this park. Forest Ridge Park could also serve as a trailhead access and offer parking for those section-hiking the MST.

Additional information on the MST East Plan can be found at www.ncmst.org. We hope that you will continue to support the MST in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JD Brewer", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Jeff D. Brewer
FMST President

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 8, October 26, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 26, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: October 26, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary VanHaaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Kathy Capps	Parks and Rec. Department
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Diane Sauer	Parks and Rec Department
Richard Costello	Parks and Rec Department
Jimmy Keith	Keith Store
S. Hutchinson	Wake County Open Space
George Stanziale	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	Haden Stanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Javier Serna	The News and Observer
Josh Davis	NCSU student
Ralph Cecchetti	Wakefield Resident

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce the preliminary “relationship diagrams” for Forest Ridge Park and to receive input and direction from the Master Plan Committee.

- 1) Mary Alice Farrell called the meeting to order.
- 2) A motion was made to approve minutes from the September 28th meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3) George Stanziale introduced the concept of “relationship diagrams.” He described them as graphic representations which illustrate general locations of site/program elements in relation to each other.
- 4) Todd Parrott introduced Concepts A and B of the relationship diagrams. He identified the four primary areas of the park starting from the south heading north:
 - a. Forest Ridge Park “South” – a neighborhood scale park with trail head access

- b. Transition area—the linear section along the site just north of Forest Ridge Park “South.” This area primarily accommodates trail systems.
 - c. Primary Park Area—the main peninsula area, with access from Old Highway 98, will accommodate the bulk of site elements.
 - d. North transition area—the linear section north of the peninsula will serve as another transition area accommodating trail systems only and will potentially provide access to the greater Raleigh greenway system.
- 5) The following issues were discussed throughout the presentation:
- a. Anthony Pilarinos asked for clarification regarding the “Transitional Habitat Zone.” Todd Parrott explained it as an area between a more manicured area and a forested area. This type of area can provide another habitat opportunity for different species.
 - b. Aram Attarian asked about access from lake.
 - c. Deb Pribonic asked for clarification regarding the management of camp sites. It was explained that the camp sites would be reserved and managed by staff. Gates would close in the evening and an attendant would manage the gate, letting people out as necessary.
 - d. Billy Totten communicated that walk-in, individual camp sites are not very popular at Jordan or Falls Lake. Billy recommended considering group camp sites as these tend to be more popular and utilized.
 - e. Anna Smith expressed concerns about being sensitive to artifacts on site especially around camp site areas.
- 6) After the presentation and question period, committee members spent time looking closely at each concept, discussing issues and elements with each other, staff and consultants. Committee members then each shared their opinions regarding the concepts:
- a. Aram Attarian expressed interest in having fishing piers. Todd Parrott pointed out fishing piers on the relationship diagrams. Vic Lebsock added that the City of Raleigh does not allow bank fishing and that there would need to be “signage control” along the banks.
 - b. Charles Rinker asked for clarification between “green amphitheater” and “formal amphitheater.” It was explained that these terms refer to the same style of amphitheater as illustrated on the image board. Charles appreciated the effort to move some activity to the south end of the site to relieve some traffic through the neighborhood.
 - c. Billy Totten communicated that swimming areas exposed to Northwest or Southwest winds are subject to erosion and subsequently to extensive maintenance issues. He suggested that the swimming area be moved to an area that is protected from winds. Billy reiterated that walk-in campsites work best for groups rather than individual sites. Group sites have a common open space that serves all tent sites. Billy stated that multiple entrances are difficult to manage.
 - d. Anthony Pilarinos felt that the plans illustrated a clever use of the upper area and lower area of the site. He stated that he liked the moderate development throughout the site as well as the site elements. Anthony suggested leaning away from primitive camp sites.
 - e. Tom McHugh expressed a preference towards Concept A as he felt that there was more access to coastline in this plan. He suggested that parking be considered near Highway 98, 100’ yards away, similar to Falls Lake. Tom stated that he has a preference for cut off lights and group camp sites.
 - f. Carol Banaitis stated that it was a good idea to consolidate buildings. Carol communicated that people do not want to see shoreline development from water (i.e. buildings). Carol does not prefer the Forest Ridge Park “South” area as presented which would add unnecessary impervious surfaces to the site. Carol stated that fixed boardwalks and piers are not good for a lake with so much fluctuation which can be up to 5’-10’ some years. Fishing is an important use and is in high demand so fishing piers are a good site element. Carol concurred that

multiple entrances are difficult to manage. The overlooks identified in Forest Ridge Park "South" are currently known as "the cliffs". People currently trespass in order to jump off the cliffs into the water. She stated that there must be controlled access in this area.

- g. Ed Teague suggested that the northern most access point be de-emphasized due to the fact that it is a small neighborhood road. Ed thought that access from Highway 98 could be further explored. He suggested that the conference center be moved to the south end of the site. Ed asked for clarification regarding operation of picnic shelters in regards to hours of operation and access to power etc. Ed stated that he likes parking tucked away and controlled access.
 - h. Deb Pribronic stated that she was surprised by the number and size of the buildings proposed for the site. George Stanziale clarified that there are only two primary buildings proposed for the site: the lodge and the conference center. Deb suggested that the northern most proposed access point be deleted and that access from Highway 98 be considered since it is a major road. Vic Lebsock clarified that park entrances are through neighborhoods as parks are intended to serve the public. In response to the small parking lot proposed off the northern most access point, Bill Totten explained that small parking lots work great if they can be seen from a vehicle so traffic can continue to move past the parking lot if it is full.
 - i. Chris snow suggested screening buildings from lake. He echoed that multiple access points are difficult to manage and agreed with Carol Banaitis that boardwalks need to be able to fluctuate with the water levels of Falls Lake.
 - j. Anna Smith communicated that the new North Wake Landfill project, located in close proximity to Forest Ridge Park, has plans to include many park elements that do not need to be duplicated in Forest Ridge. Anna stated that she thought the purpose of the site was to be passive and environmental. She does not like the tennis courts due to required lighting. She would like Forest Ridge Park to be a place to "get away from city lights." Anna liked the transitional habitat areas, canoe and kayak launch and lake swimming. She recommended for there to be more wildlife habitat manipulation such as managed meadows, forested areas etc. She would like people to be enticed to visit the park but does not want to see it cluttered up. Anna recommended that development be clustered together more.
 - k. Susan Simpson stated that, from a parks standpoint, she liked the layout very much and recommended that activities not be too clustered as this would cause too many people to be in specific areas. She liked the neighborhood park to the south as well as the setbacks. Susan does not see a need for tennis courts and especially does not like the idea of lights for the tennis courts.
 - l. Mary Alice Farrell does not think that tennis courts are needed. She liked the unique elements of the site such as the Lakeside Center, fishing piers, and disc golf area. Mary Alice was surprised to see a bike trail next to the walking trail. She recommended that they be separated by at least 30'-50'. She stated that she was also surprised to see a proposed lodge due to Blue Jay Point as she would like this site to be a unique "adventure site." Mary Alice also communicated that there needs to be more group campsites.
 - m. Russ Redd stated that he likes the plan and thinks it will be a great asset to the area.
- 7) A motion was made for Wakefield resident Ralph Cecchetti to speak. The motion was seconded and approved. Ralph stated that the master plan was well thought out. He stated that he lives on Talbot Ridge and that he assumes that most people using the park are coming from Raleigh and will be using Falls of Neuse and Capital Boulevard. Ralph expressed his concerns that traffic will increase through Wakefield neighborhoods.
- 8) Mary Alice made a motion to reconsider disc golf (as it was on the "deleted" list from the last meeting). The motion was seconded and approved. Thomas McHugh stated that he liked the idea of disc golf due to the low intervention nature of the course. Disc golf was

approved unanimously to be returned to the list of possible program elements in the master plan.

- 9) Mary Alice made a motion to reconsider volleyball in relation to sand volleyball at the Lakeside Center. The motion was seconded and approved. Charles Rinker stated that he was concerned that volleyball courts would be used for tournaments. It was communicated that two courts are not enough to host a tournament. Sand volleyball was approved 8-5 to be returned to the list of possible program elements in the master plan.
- 10) The committee agreed for the consultants to move forward with a preliminary master plan and would like the next phase of master plan development to be presented at a larger scale. The committee voted on which concept they would prefer to guide the next phase of master plan development. The committee agreed to vote on the following three scenarios:
 - a. Concept A "as is"
 - b. Concept A "hybrid" –the hybrid concept kept Concept A as is except for the location of the Ropes Course. The location of the Ropes Course was moved to the same location as the Ropes Course in Concept B.
 - c. Concept B "as is"

Three committee members voted on Concept A "as is". Two committee members voted on the hybrid of Concept A and seven committee members voted on Concept B. It was approved for the consultants to use Concept B to guide the next phase of the master plan development.

- 11) The next meeting was set for November 30th, 2005.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 9, November 30, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - November 30, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: November 30, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles J. Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Diane Sauer	Parks and Rec Department
Jan Kirschbaum	PRGAB
Bill Camp	Triangle off-road cyclists
Scott Kershner	Falls Lake State Rec Area
George Stanziale	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole S. Taddune	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Ken Parker	Neighbor
Sharron Parker	Neighbor
Vicki Weis	2901 Horseshoe Farm Road
Jimmy Keith	no affiliation provided
Amy Sawyer	no affiliation provided

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce the preliminary master plan for Forest Ridge Park and to receive input and direction from the Master Plan Committee.

- 1) Mary Alice Farrell called the meeting to order.
- 2) A motion was made to approve minutes from the October 26th meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3) Mary Alice Farrell turned the meeting over to Todd Parrott. Todd provided a recap of the process for developing the preliminary master plan stating that the consultants used the two relationship diagrams and direction from the committee as well from Parks and Recreation staff to develop the current preliminary plan. Todd presented the plan focusing on access points, trail systems and primary activity areas.
- 4) Anthony Pilarinos asked if the primary greenway connector to the south could continue over the spillway. Todd explained that greenway connections still need to be coordinated.

Vic Lebsock added that there are several options for greenway connections that can occur due to future plans for Falls of Neuse Bridge renovations:

- a. Alternate 1: During Falls of Neuse Bridge renovations, close 1 lane and work on half at a time. Design new bridge with sidewalk for pedestrians and bikers.
 - b. Alternate 2: Provide temp bridge for traffic during repairs to existing Falls of Neuse Bridge. After renovations are completed, temporary bridge would remain as pedestrian/bike bridge.
- 5) Vic Lebsock clarified that the main greenway connector trail is linear in nature and essentially goes on "forever" connecting to the greater county greenway system.
 - 6) George Stanziale clarified that the paved park trail would be narrower than the main greenway connector trail with an approximate width of 6'-8'.
 - 7) Tom McHugh questioned the 15 family sites presented in the Camping Area and Billy Totten expressed concern that 15 family sites would not be economically feasible in terms of roads and showers/bathrooms required to support the site. Billy Totten added that group sites get significantly more use than family sites, but if the plan were to include a combination of family and group sites then the two site types should be kept separate.
 - 8) After Todd Parrott's presentation of the preliminary master plan, committee members were given the opportunity view and discuss the plan with each other.
 - 9) When the meeting reconvened, Vic Lebsock stated that at this point, the process could go in one of the following two directions:
 - a. Committee Members could share thoughts and comments on preliminary master plan and take two weeks to continue to think about master plan issues and share final comments at next meeting.
 - b. Committee Members could comment now, reach consensus and consultants could finalize by the next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2005.
 - 10) Vic Lebsock explained the phasing process that is a part of the Forest Ridge Park Master Planning Process. He stated that the consultants will put forth phasing recommendations on which the committee members will comment. Vic explained that, when thinking about phasing, committee members need to ask which combined elements work best together to make a recreation resource. In other words, elements that work best together should be combined into the different phases.
 - 11) Committee members each shared their opinions regarding the concepts:
 - a. Anthony Pilarinos felt that public access to the park's assets will be valuable for the future and that park elements hit public needs. Anthony likes the different facility locations, beach layout and mountain bike trails. He is concerned about the family camp sites (based on the same issues already discussed by committee members) and would like campsites to have access from water. Billy Totten pointed out that there are already family campsites on Falls Lake but Raleigh has a need for group sites. Mike Kafsky clarified for the committee that the intent of the family sites was to provide campsites for participants in Parks and Recreation programs. Vic Lebsock posed the following questions during the discussion:
 - i. Are family sites appropriate for this site?
 - ii. What is the proper ratio between group sites and family sites?
 - b. As committee chair, Mary Alice Farrell stepped in to say that it was obvious that the campground is a stumbling block and asked the committee if the campground area should be left as is or researched further. Mary Alice made a motion to note that the campground is an issue that will need to be resolved but at a later date. The motion was seconded and approved and committee members continued sharing their opinions and observations minus Campground issues.
 - c. Tom McHugh stated that the paved park trail out to the point needs to be specified to the standard greenway size. All lighting on site should be "cut off" lights.
 - d. Libby Wilcox recommended that, due to the convergence of trail types, the main point trail should be a larger size than other trails to accommodate all users.
 - e. Billy Totten passed on commenting.

- f. Charles Rinker asked if there was a use for the structure such as the overnight lodge and if the lodge could be replaced with group campsites. It was stated that there are two different groups of clientele between the lodge and group sites. It was also stated that the lodge can be used year round whereas campsites can only be used seasonally. Billy Totten added that, from his experience, there will be no problem filling the lodge. Charles stated that he felt there was redundancy in having two large structures: the lodge and the conference center. Charles asked if there is a need for both structures or are they redundant? Charles also asked if there are any more elements that could be added to Forest Ridge Park South to disperse traffic. Charles feels as if there could be more fishing piers and that one pier per mile would not satisfy demand. Charles shared that he received phone calls and e-mails after the last Forest Ridge Park article regarding the lodge and conference center and stated to be careful regarding public perception of park elements—perhaps change language to “Retreat Center.”
 - g. Russ Redd questioned a portion of trail configuration in the southern portion of the site and suggested that the mountain bike trail, which currently runs along the shoreline, be switched with the wilderness trail which runs on the inside of the mountain bike trail.
 - h. Mary Alice Farrell commented that there should be as much walking time along the water as possible and that the large structures should be screened from the lake. Vic Lebsock responded that a single public structure along the shoreline, visible from the lake, could provide a spectacular view.
 - i. Carol Banaitis stated that overall, the plan looks good but she would like to pass it by her staff to get their comments and insights. She noted that at the primitive camping sites, the ACOE would require there to be bathrooms.
 - j. Aram Attarian stated that the Adventure/Environmental Education Center is really unique and should be embraced by the committee. He recommended that the Lakeside Center should have a “wet classroom” and the classroom should be designed so it can transform seasonally. Aram felt that camping is important for the Adventure Programs and contributes to the uniqueness of the site. He stated that there will be conflicts with trail users but that the City will have to determine how these conflicts will be mitigated.
 - k. Chris Snow stated that it is an “impressive park” with a lot going on. He recommends having a caretaker on site to assist in managing such a complex site. Chris stated that he had received a call from Jeff Breuher who recommended that there be camping on the Forest Ridge Park site for Mountains to Sea Trail users. It was pointed out that Forest Ridge Park is several miles away from the Mountains to Sea Trail making it a bit more difficult for hikers to access.
 - l. Deb Pribonic stated that she too had received calls regarding the Conference Center and Lodge. Deb suggested that there be more of an effort to get more park traffic to the southern access point. She recommended that perhaps the lodge or conference center be moved down to Forest Ridge Park South. Chris Snow commented that the only way this would work would be if both the lodge and the conference center were moved down to the southern area but then participants could not easily get to the rest of the site.
 - m. Ed Teague stated that he prefers less camping than more and suggested that some sites be distributed to the southern area. Ed asked when the gates would close for the park. Vic Lebsock and Diane Sauer stated that they would close no later than 10:00 pm but ultimately it would be determined by the park’s programming. Ed asked to be as sensitive as possible to the buffer when laying out the main greenway connector trail.
 - n. Vic Lebsock suggested that a range of campsites be provided in the master plan.
- 12) Committee members agreed that they would continue thinking about the master plan for the next two weeks and would return to the next meeting with additional comments.
- 13) The next meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2005.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 10, December 14, 2005

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

Addendum to Minutes from Meeting #10

USACOE Comments

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - December 14, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: December 14, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Paul May	no affiliation provided

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce the preliminary master plan for Forest Ridge Park and to receive input and direction from the Master Plan Committee.

- 1) Mary Alice Farrell called the meeting to order.
- 2) A motion was made to approve minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3) Debbie Pribonic made a motion to discuss the removal of the ropes course based on the latent needs survey not indicating desire by the public for a ropes course.
- 4) Mike Kafsky reminded the committee that the latent needs survey also did not list a ropes course thus the public could not vote on something that was not listed.
- 5) Susan Simpson mentioned that the latent needs survey is only one of several "guidelines" for determining future activities on any given site.
- 6) Mary Alice remarked that the High / Low ropes course is a fairly new and emerging recreational activity and that it would be a unique asset for this park.
- 7) Debbie Pribonic requested to see facts and figures demonstrating the popularity of this activity. Mike K. would look into it.
- 8) Bill also reminded the committee that the general public and state agencies and city officials also have an opportunity to comment on the plan and the particular uses proposed for the site and that the Master plan could change.
- 9) Greg requested a vote on the motion on the table. Motion failed 9 to 2.
- 10) Deb Pribonic posed the following question regarding the proposed program elements: "Why did committee members prioritize elements if the plan came back with everything in it including deleted elements?"

- 11) Carol Banaitis provided comments from the USACOE. See attached letter for detailed recommendations.
- 12) The next issue discussed in the meeting was camping on the site.
 - a. Mike Kafsky explained to the group that the camp sites would be primarily used by summer camp programs and by the Adventure/Environmental Center activities programmed throughout the year by the parks and recreation department. Mike also talked about providing a Yurt for each group campsite. A Yurt as he explained it, is a round canvas type of structure with a pitched roof that would be constructed over a raised platform and could be locked for security purposes. Each Yurt could sleep up to fifteen people.
 - b. It was agreed by everyone that there would not be any individual drive up campsites as illustrated on the preliminary master plan.
 - c. A bathroom facility with storage and a small office would also be centrally located within the group camping zone and could double as a temporary emergency facility during severe inclement weather. The facility should be able to hold up to 60 people during severe weather.
- 12) Next, Anna Smith brought up for discussion the reduction of trails across the site. She explained that the trails shown on the preliminary master plan would fragment the site and would reduce or diminish the overall quality of wildlife corridors and habitat zones.
 - a. The committee debated over the issue at length ending up in agreement that the following should occur on the site:
 - i. The overall length of the single track trail should be reduced from the current eight miles proposed to no more than five miles.
 - ii. The single track trail should be combined with paved trails in tight areas such as along the "greenway corridor" between the neighborhood park at the southern end of the site and the main portion of the park further to the north.
 - iii. The single track trail should be removed in the area directly south of the beach and camping area.
 - iv. Wilderness trails leading out to the point should be reduced to one or two small loops instead of several loops that currently lead out to the waters edge. Also wilderness trails should be located primarily around high activity zones.
 - v. The interior paved park trail leading out to the point should be changed from a loop to a single leader trail leading out to the point.
 - b. Todd Parrott reminded the group that the recommended single track trail length should be 8 miles base upon previous discussions by Bill Camp and that if too much length of trail was removed that there could be a chance bikers would not use it.
 - c. Tom McHugh who is an off road mountain biker enthusiast, agreed with Todd that if too much trail mileage was removed that bikers would end up going elsewhere.
 - d. There was also a discussion about combining the Lodge and Adventure/Environmental Center together as one building or moving the two structures closer together. The group also wanted to see the parking for those two uses consolidated.
 - e. Todd Parrott said that he would look into it but felt that the topography would limit the ability to accomplish this request.
- 13) The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
- 14) The next meeting was scheduled for January 11, 2006.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - December 14, 2005 – ADDENDUM*

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: December 14, 2005

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Paul May	no affiliation provided

ALL ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN BOLD

Purpose: The meeting was held to introduce the preliminary master plan for Forest Ridge Park and to receive input and direction from the Master Plan Committee.

- 1) Mary Alice Farrell called the meeting to order.
- 2) A motion was made to approve minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3) Debbie Pribonic made a motion to discuss the removal of the ropes course based on the latent needs survey not indicating desire by the public for a ropes course.

Deb read the following paragraphs describing “latent demand” provided to the committee by Park and Rec personnel:

The Survey results from the interest question provide a means for rating activities from the least to the most important activity based on the proportion of residents having high interest in the activity (Table 1). A comparison of level of participation and level of interest provides an indication of where there is an opportunity for improving the availability of facilities or services. For example, currently 17.7% of the population in Raleigh participated in “picnicking with family” during the past 12 months. When compared to those interested in “picnicking with family,” it is found that 51.7 percent of the respondents were very interested or extremely interested in this activity. Comparing these results, it seems that about 34.0

percent of the population that is interested have not been picnicking with their family in the past 12 months:

51.7% interested

- 17.7% participated

34.0% latent demand

The latent demand can be used as a guide toward recommendations for future programming or facilities. There are three indicators that should be considered in the decision-making process. First, those activities having the largest proportion of the population with a very high or extreme interest (greater than 20%) should be considered for resource allocations. Second, those activities where the participation percentage is less than half the percentage with a very high or extreme interest should also be considered. Finally, those activities where the latent demand is greater than 20 percent of the population are targets for consideration. Activities that need to have special consideration during the decision process for the development of new facilities or programs for the department are those activities that meet all three of these criteria. Activities meeting these criteria have been bolded in Table 1 below.

Deb Pribonic then referenced *Table 1: Activity Interest, Participation and Latent Demand for Raleigh Residents during 2002.* and the *Table 17: Weighted Activity Participation, Interest and Latent Demand*. These tables were provided to the park committee members by the Park and Rec department .

In addition, Deb discussed the committee's original, prioritized list and stated that it very closely follows the Table 1 and 17 from the needs survey which prioritized the interested among Raleigh's citizens. Deb read several of the top elements from all three lists. She then pointed out there are some items that are low on the survey and low on the Park Committee's list that were included the park. She then stated that when she questioned how and why these elements were added to the park, the consultants indicated something to the effect that it all could fit into a 600 acre park. She then indicated this made no sense to her and was contrary to all the data and contrary to the prioritization done by the committee. She then asked why we would be wasting tax payers' money on elements that they have a low priority.

- 4) Deb Pribonic posed the following question regarding the proposed program elements: "Why did committee members prioritize elements if the plan came back with everything in it including deleted elements?"

Next, a comment was made by a committee member that the Adventure programs are "up and coming". Deb Pribonic asked for data to support that statement. None was given and Mike Kafsky said he would look into it. Several committee members responded that they "just knew this". Deb asked how was their opinion was anymore informed than hers.

- 5) Mike Kafsky reminded the committee that the latent needs survey also did not list a ropes course thus the public could not vote on something that was not listed.
- 6) Susan Simpson mentioned that the latent needs survey is only one of several "guidelines" for determining future activities on any given site.
- 7) Mary Alice remarked that the High / Low ropes course is a fairly new and emerging recreational activity and that it would be a unique asset for this park.
- 8) Debbie Pribonic requested to see facts and figures demonstrating the popularity of this activity. Mike K. would look into it.
- 9) **Deb Pribonic stated that the committee indicated several times throughout this planning process that we did not want to duplicate elements in our parks. I raised the question why are we duplicating elements and facilities that are available 5 minutes away from Forest Ridge Park at Camp Kanada? Tony P. indicated Camp Kanada was not open to the public. Deb Pribonic responded that in fact Camp**

Kanada was open to the public. Michael indicated that Camp Kanada programs were more expensive

- 10) Bill also reminded the committee that the general public and state agencies and city officials also have an opportunity to comment on the plan and the particular uses proposed for the site and that the Master plan could change.
- 11) Greg requested a vote on the motion on the table. Motion failed 9 to 2.
- 12) Carol Banaitis provided comments from the USACOE. See attached letter for detailed recommendations.
- 13) The next issue discussed in the meeting was camping on the site.
 - a. Mike Kafsky explained to the group that the camp sites would be primarily used by summer camp programs and by the Adventure/Environmental Center activities programmed throughout the year by the parks and recreation department. Mike also talked about providing a Yurt for each group campsite. A Yurt as he explained it, is a round canvas type of structure with a pitched roof that would be constructed over a raised platform and could be locked for security purposes. Each Yurt could sleep up to fifteen people.
 - b. It was agreed by everyone that there would not be any individual drive up campsites as illustrated on the preliminary master plan.
 - c. A bathroom facility with storage and a small office would also be centrally located within the group camping zone and could double as a temporary emergency facility during severe inclement weather. The facility should be able to hold up to 60 people during severe weather.
- 12) Next, Anna Smith brought up for discussion the reduction of trails across the site. She explained that the trails shown on the preliminary master plan would fragment the site and would reduce or diminish the overall quality of wildlife corridors and habitat zones.
 - a. The committee debated over the issue at length ending up in agreement that the following should occur on the site:
 - i. The overall length of the single track trail should be reduced from the current eight miles proposed to no more than five miles.
 - ii. The single track trail should be combined with paved trails in tight areas such as along the "greenway corridor" between the neighborhood park at the southern end of the site and the main portion of the park further to the north.
 - iii. The single track trail should be removed in the area directly south of the beach and camping area.
 - iv. Wilderness trails leading out to the point should be reduced to one or two small loops instead of several loops that currently lead out to the waters edge. Also wilderness trails should be located primarily around high activity zones.
 - v. The interior paved park trail leading out to the point should be changed from a loop to a single leader trail leading out to the point.
 - b. Todd Parrott reminded the group that the recommended single track trail length should be 8 miles base upon previous discussions by Bill Camp and that if too much length of trail was removed that there could be a chance bikers would not use it.
 - c. Tom McHugh who is an off road mountain biker enthusiast, agreed with Todd that if too much trail mileage was removed that bikers would end up going elsewhere.
 - d. There was also a discussion about combining the Lodge and Adventure/Environmental Center together as one building or moving the two structures closer together. The group also wanted to see the parking for those two uses consolidated.
 - e. Todd Parrott said that he would look into it but felt that the topography would limit the ability to accomplish this request.

- 13) The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
- 14) The next meeting was scheduled for January 11, 2006.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**FALLS LAKE
11405 FALLS OF THE NEUSE ROAD
WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA 27587**

Falls Lake Visitor Assistance Center

December 14, 2005

Mr. Victor Lebsock
Park and Greenway Planner
City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 590
Raleigh, NC 27602

Dear Mr. Lebsock:

Staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have reviewed the "Preliminary Master Plan" for Forest Ridge and the following comments are presented for your consideration. The plan as proposed is a project with great potential and should benefit the citizens of Raleigh and the region. We support the process the City has used to reach this point and its plans to continue with public and agency involvement in planning and developing Forest Ridge.

General Lease Comments

Regarding general real estate matters, the area identified as Forest Ridge lies both within and outside the prime lease area between the Corps and the State of North Carolina. That portion of the area currently under lease to the State would be a sublease from the State to the City, and the portion of Corps land currently not under lease would be directly leased from the Corps to the City. An exception would be the cemeteries located within the site, which were not acquired by the government and are considered privately owned. The term of the sublease shall coincide with the expiration date of the prime lease (2033). The sublease would be subject to the terms and conditions of the prime lease.

Our previous comments on this proposal (letter from Chief, Technical Services Division to Mr. Jack Duncan, City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Director, dated January 21, 1998) still apply. In general, prior to construction, a NEPA document (EA) will be required, as well as applicable 401 and 404 Clean Water Act permits. In addition, the 1998 letter asked that we be provided with a narrative description of the proposed development, in addition to maps/drawings. A narrative description of the proposed park features and their intended uses would greatly enhance our understanding of the different project features and may eliminate some of the concerns expressed in other comments.

Corps regulations require market analysis and feasibility studies for new developments (including parks) on Corps lands. The City may already have this

data and it should be used to support the priorities of the phased development of this park.

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

By assuming stewardship of the public lands at Forest Ridge, the City will have an important natural resources management role. A management plan that addresses natural and cultural resources management will be required, and it should be compatible with the Corps natural resources mission, which is "to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences, to serve the needs of present and future generations".

A cultural resources survey of Forest Ridge has been completed. You have the report and a .pdf file that identifies archaeological/historical sites to be avoided. The management plan for the park should address management of cultural resources sites.

Management of the open fields, "habitat transition areas" and forested areas should be addressed in the park's management plan. Techniques to enhance the park's wildlife and forest resources should be used. In some areas, selective timber harvesting and prescribed burning are appropriate to enhance wildlife habitat and forest health and vigor.

Development and Construction

In general, proposed development should avoid and minimize negative impacts to vegetation, soils, wetlands and bottomland hardwoods, streams, cultural resources, wildlife and aesthetics. Structures will be required to be located above the 100-year flood plain and critical elevations as designated in the Falls Lake Master Plan or flood proofed in accordance with the Flood Plain Executive Order.

Where possible, buffers of at least 100-200' should be included between the activity areas and adjacent private property. Visual impacts of development from the lake and from private property will be minimized. Neuse River buffer rules apply to the area.

Recommend that large-scale lighting be avoided. Measures should be taken to avoid light pollution wherever outdoor lighting is required.

Universal accessibility principles should be applied throughout design, construction and operation of the park.

Recommend that the adventure education center and overnight lodge be located within easy walking distance of each other, since overnight lodge users most likely will be using the center. This will also lessen the "footprint" of this part of the development.

Recommend the use of "green" construction methods in structures and roadways. Attention should be paid to minimizing the amount of impervious surfaces on buildings, roads, parking and trails. Additionally, use of native, drought-resistant plant materials is recommended when plantings are needed.

Trails

The Corps strongly supports trails and acknowledges that demand exists for all types of trails found in the proposal. From the plan, it appears that there is an attempt to provide access to most areas of the park on each type of trail, which has resulted in several different trails in close proximity to each other in a number of locations. Besides being confusing to trail users, the current configuration would result in quite a bit of land disturbance and vegetation clearing and could pose future erosion and sedimentation problems. We recommend that the trail types be more segregated geographically; for instance, that single-track mountain bike trails be located in a different area of the park from hiking-only trails. While we recognize that this might result in a reduction in the total mileage of the trails, it would provide for improved experiences for the trail users and less impact on the resource.

Camping

We question whether the benefits of a small number of family campsites will outweigh the construction and maintenance costs and the environmental impacts. In the proposal, it appears that the campground is in close proximity to facilities such as the swim beach and bike trail. The mix of day and overnight uses can lead to management problems. If primitive camping is provided, sanitary facilities should be included.

Ropes Course Area

Recommend that the need for sanitary facilities be considered for this area (consider expected duration of use, participant age and physical condition, etc.).

Disc Golf

Recommend that if disc golf remains as part of the plan that it be constructed "in the landscape" with very little, if any, clearing of vegetation. The course should be sited to take advantage of already cleared areas or areas with sparse vegetation. In addition, the course should be as "natural" as possible and should not require grading, use of pesticides, or watering of vegetation (grass).

Multi-Use Activity Areas

This is one of the elements of the plan that would benefit from a narrative description of intended uses and user groups. According to the layout on the plan, they are sited on already cleared areas and should be useful as informal play areas without a need for grading or further clearing of vegetation.

Fishing Piers

Fishing is an activity that is enjoyed by visitors of all ages and physical abilities. Provision of piers provides access to deeper water for anglers and can be enhanced by placing fishing structure in the lake adjacent to the pier. Fishing piers should be located reasonably close to parking so that anglers can transport their gear, trash, fish, etc. easily. Structures such as piers and bridges must be designed and constructed for lake elevation changes. Piers or bridges that completely cross a cove of the lake at normal pool will not be approved if they prevent access to the cove by other boaters or create a safety hazard.

Recommend that the City reconsider the prohibition on bank fishing for Forest Ridge. Bank fishing is permitted throughout Falls Lake except in locations like swim beaches, where it would conflict with other uses.

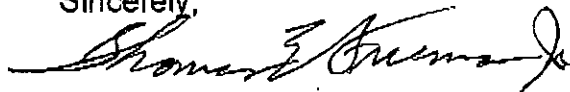
Scenic Overlook

The design of the scenic overlook should incorporate features that would deter persons from jumping from the rocks to the water below. Design and management should keep this area from reverting to a party/hangout area for local youth. The area has historically been a safety concern.

Many of the users of this area in the past have trespassed in the adjacent cemetery. To avoid this conflict in the future, recommend that the city construct fencing to deter trail and overlook users from trespassing in the cemetery.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed plan and look forward to continuing to partner with the City of Raleigh on this project. If you have questions about our comments and recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 846-9332, ext. 222 or Carol Banaitis at (919) 846-9332, ext. 226.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Freeman, Jr.
Operations Manager

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 11, January 11, 2006

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes
Ropes Course Participation Statistics
Challenge Course Defined handout
Informal Citizen Survey Conducted by Committee Member Anthony Pilarinos
Triangle Area Mountain Bike Trail Resources handout

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - January 11, 2005

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: January 11, 2006

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Russ Redd	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Martha Svoboda	Committee Alternate
Diane Sauer	Parks and Rec. Department
Ivan Dickey	Parks and Rec. Department
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
Tom Freeman	COE
Dave Bell	Camp Director, Camp Kanata
Bill Camp	Triangle off-road cyclists
Sig Hutchinson	Triangle off-road cyclists
Allen Tutt	Triangle off-road cyclists
Carter Worthington	International Mountain Biking Association
George Stanziale	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole Taddune	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly
Angie Demery	Concerned citizen
Theresa Wilke	Citizen concerned about location of this facility in neighborhood (noise and traffic)
David Deans	Citizen/horseshoe park Master Plan Committee
Marcia Deans	Citizen
Candy Fuller	Citizen
Cathi Seligmann	Citizen
Dean Collis	Citizen

Purpose: The meeting was held to present and to receive input for the trail revisions in the preliminary master plan for Forest Ridge Park and to finalize the plan. Additionally, Priority Program Element recommendations were presented and a draft of the Master Plan Report was disseminated for committee input.

- 1) Meeting commenced with two public presentations:

- a. Bill Camp – Triangle Off Road Cyclists – Bill discussed mountain biking needs in the area as demonstrated by the Raleigh Parks Plan survey. Bill mentioned that Raleigh currently has zero miles of maintained mountain biking trails. Bill stated that if trails are maintained properly they are environmentally friendly and do not impact wildlife.
 - b. David Bell – Camp Kanata (Invited by Deb Pribonic to highlight the facilities provided by Camp Kanata and to encourage a partnership between Forest Ridge Park programs and Camp Kanata in order to remove the need for a ropes course on the Forest Ridge Park site.) David stated that the main purpose of Camp Kanata is summer camp. The site does host a ropes course/climbing wall with high and low elements and additionally has a portable ropes course. The Camp Kanata ropes course is open to the public with a fee. Deb Pribonic pointed out that the ropes course could be used via a partnership between Forest Ridge Park and Camp Kanata. Tony Pilarinos asked regarding distribution of users and David responded that there is equal use by schools, churches and businesses. Aram Attarian asked if Raleigh Parks and Recreation would be able to use the facility on daily basis in the summer. David Bell responded, no, not at this point. Tony asked if the use trend was growing, falling off or stable. Aram explained that the industry is growing and he feels that an additional facility in Raleigh could do well. George Stanziale asked if Camp Kanata would have a problem with another ropes course nearby. David responded no and that he does not feel that a course at Forest Ridge Park would compete with Camp Kanata course. Susan Simpson asked why Camp Kanata does not do any marketing to which David responded that they do not want to spread themselves too thin as they are primarily camp experts.
- 2) Two additional agenda items were added:
 - a. Tony Pilarinos requested to present results from a survey that he had conducted.
 - b. Deb Pribonic requested to further discuss the need for a ropes course on site if the need could be satisfied via a partnership with another facility in the area that already had a ropes course, specifically Camp Kanata.
- 3) Todd Parrott (HSPA) presented the trail revisions and recommendations. The following revisions and recommendations were made regarding the trail network:
 - a. Wilderness trails were reduced on the point providing one wilderness trail that loops with the paved park trail.
 - b. Wilderness trails were reduced from 4 miles to 2-2.5 miles.
 - c. The single track trail was removed in the area directly south of the beach and camping area.
 - d. Single track trails were reduced from 8 miles to 6 miles.
 - e. It was recommended that the paved park trail continue along the southern edge of the peninsula in order to provide a loop for this trail type as well as to disperse users along this trail type.
 - f. It was recommended that single track trails and main greenway connector trail remain as two separate trail systems along the narrow transition areas to the north and south of the peninsula. Consultants feel strongly that there is more than adequate room to accommodate two separate trail systems in these areas and that this mileage is necessary in order to achieve a suitable amount of mountain biking trails.
- 4) Anna Smith asked about the necessity of the trail around the camping area. Mike Kafsky agreed that this trail is not necessary.
- 5) Tom McHugh made a motion to restore mountain bike trail and wilderness trail lengths. The motion was seconded and approved.
- 6) Tom McHugh stated that parking hurts wildlife more than trails. He proposed losing 300 or more parking spots and restoring wilderness trails and mountain biking trails to their original lengths.
- 7) Carol Banaitis wanted to clarify that the ACOE is pro-trails but that the ACOE feels that parallel trails are a poor design for the proposed trail network.

- 8) Aram Attarian stated that he thinks the trails could be multi-use.
- 9) Vic Lebsock defined the concept of the "multi-use" trail and defined it as an earthen trail, about 24" wide, available to all level of users (i.e. hikers, bikers, runners, walkers). On a multi-use trail, the slowest user has the right-of-way.
- 10) Diane Sauer stated that she is a proponent of single use trails wherever possible as the user has a better experience if using the trail for a specific activity.
- 11) Anna Smith clarified her issues regarding habitat fragmentation. She stated that she is not opposed to trails per se but is opposed to trails being everywhere on site accessing every area.
- 12) Vic Lebsock asked Bill Camp regarding mountain biking trail design and Bill stated that he is a proponent of stacked loops.
- 13) Tom McHugh made a motion to:
 - a. Convert paved park trail in area south of the southern Multi-use area into a multi-use trail for pedestrians and bikers with pedestrians having the right-of-way
 - b. Bring total length of mountain biking trails to 8 miles using the area south of the main paved road to accommodate additional trail lengths.
- 14) The motion was seconded and approved. The committee voted and unanimously approved the recommended trail revisions.
- 15) Tony Pilarinos presented survey and summarized it by stating that the survey responses showed a clear divergence between Region 1 (Wakefield Estates and Old 98 connectors) and Region 2 (rest of northern wake within a 7 mile radius of the site) with Region 1 desiring a minimal nature park versus Region 2 desiring a full featured Nature and Adventure Program focused park. The comments illustrate that the reasons for the divergence are quality of life and traffic concerns which are driving park preferences in Region 1. (See attachment for complete survey.)
- 16) Ed Teague made a motion to consider removing Adventure theme from the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan including
 - a. The removal of the ropes course
 - b. The removal of the climbing wall
 - c. Removal of summer camp programs
 - d. Removal of amphitheater
 - e. Scaled back Adventure Education and Conference Center
 - f. Scaled back lodgeand to seek services through a partnership with another facility that already has these components, specifically Camp Kanata.
- 17) The motion was seconded and approved for discussion.
- 18) Mike Kafsky stated that by removing the ropes course and climbing wall the adventure aspect of the park would be decapitated. He additionally stated that Parks and Recreation Adventure program and other programs have been partnering for over 20 years but what is needed is a facility such as the proposed Adventure Education and Conference Center in order to grow and support the demands of the programs.
- 19) George Stanziale stated that he felt that Ed Teague's motion was self serving and questioned why this issue is being brought up eleven meetings into the process. George Stanziale stated that he felt that a motion should have been made during the programming phase. He reminded everyone that the program was unanimously approved during meeting #7.
- 20) Ed Teague stated that he needs to continue to represent the area residents due to the fact that he has received some very strong feedback from area residents regarding the development of this park.
- 21) Deb Pribonic stated that she feels it is a compromise to primarily develop the site as a trail park and to keep the adventure component as a partnership with others off-site.
- 22) Anna Smith stated that she feels that a ropes course is a positive introduction to nature.
- 23) The motion made by Ed Teague was voted on and defeated 11-2.
- 24) Program Element Priority recommendations were introduced to committee members. More discussion and approval of these recommendations will occur at the next meeting.

- 25) The Draft Master Plan Report text was distributed to all present committee members. Committee members will have until the next meeting to provide written comments and feedback regarding the draft report.
- 26) The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th, 2006.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

Challenge Course Participation Levels of Four Existing Programs

City of Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation, WA Established 2000					
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,031	1,000	1,350	1,626	5,007

Iredell County Parks and Recreation, NC Established 1985					
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,178	1,034	1,389	1,717	5,318

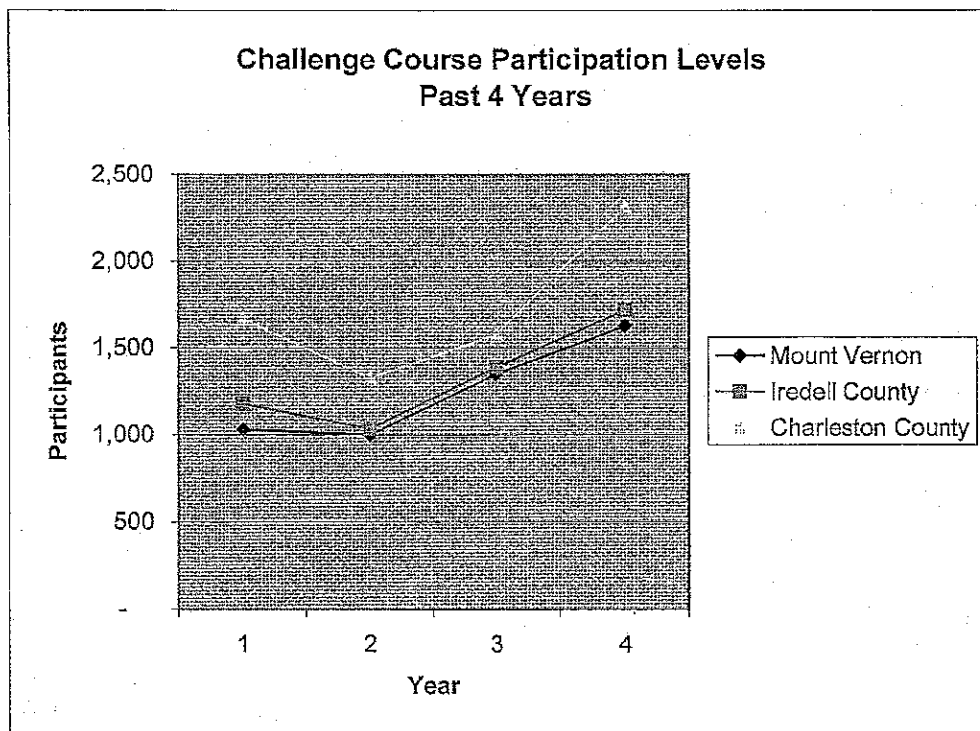
Charleston County Parks and Recreation, SC Established 1985					
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,666	1,325	1,577	2,317	6,885

Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor Education, VA Established 1985					
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	22,000	21,300	21,500	19,700	84,500

Totals	25,875	24,659	25,816	25,360	101,710
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Notes:

- *The above Challenge Course Programs have sustainable participant levels over the past four years.
- *First three programs have one full time challenge course manager.
- *Hemlock has 8 full time staff for challenge course operations.
- *Hemlock is located close to Washington DC and thus has a large population base.
- *A program at Forest Ridge would likely follow the participation trends of the first three programs.
- *The most telling figure is Contact Hours since some programs are multiple days and others are half days.
However that figure was not commonly recorded by challenge course managers.
- *Young programs can quickly establish themselves as did the Mount Vernon project.



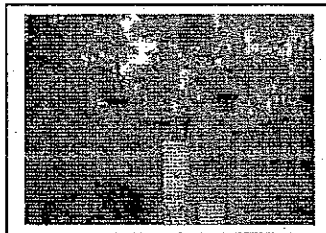
What is a Challenge Course?

The challenge course industry grew out of a desire to implement a wilderness type experience in a fixed setting, as opposed to the expedition setting. A course is defined as a series of activities, sometimes on or close to the ground (usually referred to as a low course) and sometimes built on utility poles or trees, or in the rafters of a building (a high course).

Challenge courses are installed in wide variety of places – schools, camps, park districts, and outdoor education centers, as well as in corporate training centers. Each course can serve a single group, such as students in a school, or multiple groups, such as a park district course which might serve student and adult groups. The single identifying feature is that most often, it is an intact group which comes together to share the challenge course experience, and that a curriculum is designed for the specific outcome desired by that group.

The course itself is comprised of many different elements. Names of these elements vary throughout the industry, as do belay systems, access systems, the number of elements at a course, and the sequence of the elements. Each course is individually designed and built to accommodate the local terrain, climate, and program delivered at that site. Climbing walls have also become increasingly popular over the last years, partly for recreational purposes, and partly as educational tools. When climbing walls are built for educational purposes, they are often used in conjunction with a challenge course.

Excerpt from ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology)



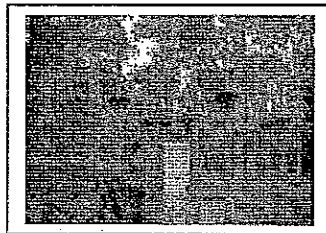
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Excerpt from ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology)



1-11-06 Informal Forest Ridge Email Survey

Purpose:

- Create an exploratory survey to understand the differences in opinions about Forest Ridge park needs
- Find a view of needs more useful than the anecdotal "All residents I speak to want X"

Method:

- Start with committee's own 9/28/05 "program elements voting results" list
 - Consolidate to the critical few user focused park activities and services, not buildings/infrastructure
- Keep survey simple
 - One page, self explanatory, 2 min to complete
- Keep scope wide
 - Need to understand big picture
- Many residents will not know what an adventure center is
 - Survey to provide example programs
- Ad Hoc selection of email addresses
 - started with 65
 - multiple forwards

Responses

- 12 Wakefield Estates/old 98 (R#1)
- 22 Outside of R#1, but within 7 mi radius of Forest Ridge Park.

1/11/06 Informal Forest Ridge Email Survey Results				
	Location of Individuals Responding:	Wakefield Estates and Old 98 connectors	Rest of Northern Wake (7 mi radius)	Total
	Region #	1	2	
	# Responses:	12	22	34
	Will the park have a positive effect on quality of life? % responding yes:	20%	<a 100%	
	Will the park have a positive effect on property values? % responding yes:	20%	<a 93%	
Informal Sport				
	disc golf (frisbie)	0.4	1.4	
	Fishing	1.8	2.0	closest
	Hiking/Running/Jogging/biking	2.3	2.8	
	Lake Swimming	1.2	2.4	
	frisbee, kites, etc)	0.8	2.6	
	Playground	0.8	2.4	
Adventure Sport				
	Canoeing/Kayaking/Sculling	1.6	2.5	
	Climbing facilities and Ropes course	0.8	1.6	
	Mountain Biking	1.4	1.9	
	Sailing	1.2	2.1	
Observe Nature				
	Bird and butterfly garden	1.0	1.6	
	Family Camping	0.5	1.8	
	Group Camping	0.3	1.7	
	Nature appreciation: hiking, bird watching	1.7	2.2	
	Overlooks	1.8	2.2	
	Picnicking and Picnic shelters	1.3	2.7	
Art and Music				
	Summertime Art Exhibits at the lake	0.3	2.0	
	Summertime Local Musician Concerts at the lake	0.3	2.6	furthest
Education				
	Nature Education : walks, classes, bird watching	1.0	2.0	
	K-12 environmental education	0.8	2.4	
	K-12 Peer Pressure Rejection Programs (using adventure sports facilities)	0.2	2.0	
	Adventure Education programs (mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, climbing, ropes course)	0.3	2.4	
	Teambuilding programs (using adventure sports facilities)	0.1	2.0	
Meetings				
	Flexible Facilities to support volunteer group activities (classroom/meeting rooms) with optional Adventure activities	0.1	1.9	
Organized Competitive Sports				
	basketball facilities	0.0	1.8	
	soccer facilities	0.0	1.8	
	Tennis facilities	0.0	1.9	
	volleyball	0.0	1.7	
	Average	0.8	2.1	
	Correlation		0.5	

<a> one respondent answered "qualified yes" contingent on finding another road access other than old 98; this was treated as a "no" for the current master plan draft

Residents were asked to express their preference rating for each of the park elements above

Rating scale: 3 (high), 2 (med), 1 (low), 0 (none)

Average response is listed for each element by region

Average of all elements by region: 0.8, 2.1

1-11-06 Informal Forest Ridge Email Survey Conclusions

What Park Services do North Wake County Residents Need at Forest Ridge?

- Survey was investigative only and is not a “representative sample” for Wake County
- Responses were clustered by region:
 - R#1: within approx. 2000 ft of park (Wakefield Estates and roads connecting to old 98)
 - R#2: within 7 mi. radius and outside R#1
- **Survey indicates existence of two distinct points of view of the park¹:**
 - Responses from regions 1 and 2 show clear divergence:
 - **Minimal nature park vs.**
 - **Full featured nature and adventure program focused park**
- Comments provide reasons for divergence
 - **Quality of life and traffic concerns are driving park preferences in region 1 responses**
- Region 1 responses suggest committee faces an abundance of fears and shortage of facts in the immediate vicinity of the park
- **Region 2 responses show**
 - **Above average interest in adventure, education, and music programs**
 - Below average interest in competitive sports and family camping
 - Below average interest in group camping by families
 - as discussed in committee, families are not the primary source of demand for group camping

¹ Based on Microsoft Excel Student's T-test. Results were $p < .0001$, for two tailed distribution, two sample equal variance. Under controlled study conditions, this would be compelling evidence for statistical significance. However, the email survey may well not be a random sample, so the conservative conclusion is that of those that responded, the R1 group has very different views from R2.

Write In Park Items and Comments From Region 1:

Strongly oppose park access via old 98.. Prefer quiet activities to be associated with this land.
A regional park will have a positive effect if low impact on quality of life and property values. Otherwise if master plan is developed with old 98 as entrance you will destroy a beautiful quiet neighborhood. Please do not use old 98 as the entrance!
Environmental and traffic studies to determine impact
I am in favor of an environmentally sensitive park, however I believe that team building, meetings and classrooms will take away from the park and it's original design. However, I do feel this is an excellent area for nature to be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.
I would like to see the entrance to the park on 98 rather than old 98, if we had some of the programs such as concerts, art exhibits I feel as though it would be a real problem for the local residence on old 98 and talbot ridge. Somethings you have listed are great for some people, but I feel that they would not be utilized.
Development of this land in any significant fashion is a complete misprioritization of tax payer funds. I request that no moneys be spent on this project until basic infrastructure needs such as adequate roads, bridges and schools have been met. Most of the activities you have suggested will significantly damage the pristine natural habitat of this area and should ot be undertaken for any of the conveniences they may achieve. Create these types of facilities at the Durant waste disposal site that is closing
A park is not the priority of this North Raleigh/Wake Forest area. We must attend to our necessary infrastructure needs before we consider such things as a park. We are in dire need of improved road infrastructure, particularly a new bridge over the dam. Additionally, we need to expand our schools and ensure appropriate fire and police support to the area. A park at this time is a misuse of tax dollars. Let's take care of our basic needs before considering a "nice to do pleasure project."
I think our representatives to this committee should kill this project outright. If that is not possible, minimize it's use and reject all access form Old 98, or any other residential area. This is a terrible waste of our tax money. Get them to stop this. we have much higher priorities for basic infrastructure before we build parks.
Important to Keep area natural. No Infrastructure. I want money used on schools.

Write In Park Items and Comments From Region 2:

I think this will help the quality of life for all of North Raleigh and Wake Forest. The lake is beautiful, we should be proud of it and show it off.
A Park is very important to us-- lacking in places to take children to play--need swings, slides, someplace in N Raleigh to get out
We need running/bike paths in this area like Shelly Lake or Umstead!!!
Relative to park's effect on property values, if you read the recent N&O real Estate article about parks/proximity and property values, you would know the answer is very positive statistically. In fact, studies show that the closer the park is to residents, the more their property value escalates in value.
Forest Ridge park will have a positive effect on quality of life and a positive effect on property values
I didn't vote for tennis since that is available at the schools and the club. When the black top for that is poured it could change the way the water runs off and keeping the natural area as natural as possible for me is the single most important element. (same concern with basket ball but not as much since less paving is needed). volley ball is fine since sand can be used. Probably should not have an enclosed shelter area to encourage teens up to "no good" to gather there at night! Same with bathroom facilities- unless there is a way to monitor them or keep them locked at night.
I think this should be a nature-oriented park focusing on hiking and picnicking
Dog park
The paddle boats at Shelly Lake are fun!
Paddle Boats
Paddle Boats
Yes, you missed the baseball fields
Baseball/Softball may be advantageous to our community
Par course; Rose garden or some other theme garden (see WFGC):2; Wake county Boat Ramp/Access:3; Wake county Fishing (no license to Wake residents):3

1-11-06 Survey Email Sent:

1/7/05

On Forest Ridge Park- Your Opinion Matters!

Raleigh Parks and Recreation and the Citizen Advisory Board is leading a master planning process to define a future park, Forest Ridge. Forest Ridge is approximately 600 acres in the shape of a peninsula surrounded by Falls Lake. The future park site starts at the water's edge about 400 yards north of Falls Lake Dam, and follows the water line as far north as Route 98, roughly parallel to Falls of Neuse road. This land is owned and managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Corps of Engineers will partner with Raleigh to support the future park.

The purpose of the master plan is to set a long term vision for the park. It needs to anticipate the community's needs for the long term (20 or 30 years) while being sensitive to the existing natural resources and the surrounding residential properties. This park site will be one of the largest parks in Raleigh's park system. It is intended to serve the needs of the greater Raleigh and the Northern Wake County region. This plan will envision what the fully developed park will look like, even though only a small portion might be developed over the next few years. This will ensure we don't waste money or natural resources, and provide for the best possible park.

Below please indicate your preferences for the park design elements listed. You may also indicate your own ideas or comments. The results from this survey will be presented to the park master planning committee on **Wednesday**, and will help shape the plan that will be presented to the public for review in the next couple of months. **Your response is needed within 24 hours.** We apologize for the short time to respond.

Thanks
Tony Pilarinos
Patti Pilarinos

Park Elements

Enter: 3,2,1,0

3 (High) 2 (Med)

1 (Low) or 0 (none)

Informal Sport

disc golf (frisbee)	
Fishing	
Hiking/Running/Jogging/biking	
Lake Swimming	
Open fields for informal play (football, baseball, frisbee, kites, etc)	
Playground	

Adventure Sport

Canoeing/Kayaking/Sculling	
Climbing facilities and Ropes course	
Mountain Biking	
Sailing	

Observe Nature

Bird and butterfly garden	
Family Camping	
Group Camping	
Nature appreciation: hiking, bird watching	
Overlooks	
Picnicking and Picnic shelters	

Art and Music

Summertime Art Exhibits at the lake	
Summertime Local Musician Concerts at the lake	

Education

Nature Education : walks, classes, bird watching	
K-12 environmental education	
K-12 Peer Pressure Rejection Programs (using adventure sports facilities)	
Adventure Education programs (mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, climbing, ropes course)	
Teambuilding programs (using adventure sports facilities)	

Meetings

Flexible Facilities to support volunteer group activities (classroom/meeting rooms) with optional Adventure activities	
--	--

Organized Competitive Sports

basketball facilities	
soccer facilities	
Tennis facilities	
volleyball	

Write- In Item (did we miss something important to you?)

--	--

(Please Note: no motorized boat ramps will be allowed by the US Army Corp of Engineers)

And Finally:

Do you think a regional park in North Raleigh/Wake Forest will have a positive effect on:

Quality of life (yes) or (no)

Property values (yes) or (no)

End of Survey Email Sent

1-11-06 Informal Forest Ridge Email Survey- Other Info

How Committee's List of Park Elements Was Used to Create 1/11/06 Survey Elements	
9/28/05 Committee "Program Elements" List	1/11/06 Survey Elements
Informal Sport	
disc golf	disc golf (frisbee)
fishing	Fishing
multi use trail	Hiking/Running/Jogging/biking
lake swimming	Lake Swimming
multi use field	Open fields for informal play (football, baseball, frisbee, kites, etc)
playground	Playground
Adventure Sport	
Canoeing/Kayaking	Canoeing/Kayaking/Sculling
challenge facility with climbing wall	Climbing facilities and Ropes course
mountain biking	Mountain Biking
sailing	Sailing
Observe Nature	
bird and Butterfly garden	Bird and butterfly garden
camping	Family Camping
	Group Camping
hiking	Nature appreciation: hiking, bird watching
Overlooks	Overlooks
Picnicking	Picnicking and Picnic shelters
Art and Music	
Public Art	Summertime Art Exhibits at the lake
informal amphitheater	Summertime Local Musician Concerts at the lake
Education	
nature walks	Nature Education : walks, classes, bird watching
K-12 Environmental education	K-12 environmental education
adventure education center	K-12 Peer Pressure Rejection Programs (using adventure sports facilities)
adventure education center	Adventure Education programs (mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, climbing, ropes course)
adventure education center	Teambuilding programs (using adventure sports facilities)
Meetings	
classroom/meeting facilities	Flexible Facilities to support volunteer group activities (classroom/meeting rooms) with optional Adventure activities
Organized Competitive Sports	
	basketball facilities
	soccer facilities
Tennis facilities	Tennis facilities
volleyball	volleyball
Write- In Item	

(continued- see next page)

Elements Consolidated from Committee List to Survey List

Committee "Program Elements" List

Consolidated Survey Elements

Item name changed to improve understanding

Art programming
informal amphitheater

Duplicate --was combined with another element

Art Programming
climbing wall
bird watching
running/jogging
Picnic Shelters
rowing/sculling

Items Removed:

Not appropriate for this type of user survey

Maintenance Facility
Restrooms

No special facilities or investment needed:

orienteering

Facilities whose value is derived from activities that are already listed

boating facility (non motorized)
waterfront center
camping lodge

Too general, abstract; unable to express in user benefit terms in time available

Cultural interpretation

wildlife habitat enhancements

Summertime Art Exhibits at the lake
Summertime Local Musician Concerts at the Lake

Summertime Art Exhibits at the lake
Climbing facilities and ropes course
observe Nature- hiking and bird watching
Hiking/Running/Jogging/Biking
Picnicking and Picnic shelters
Canoeing/Kayaking/Sculling

Related Committee Element

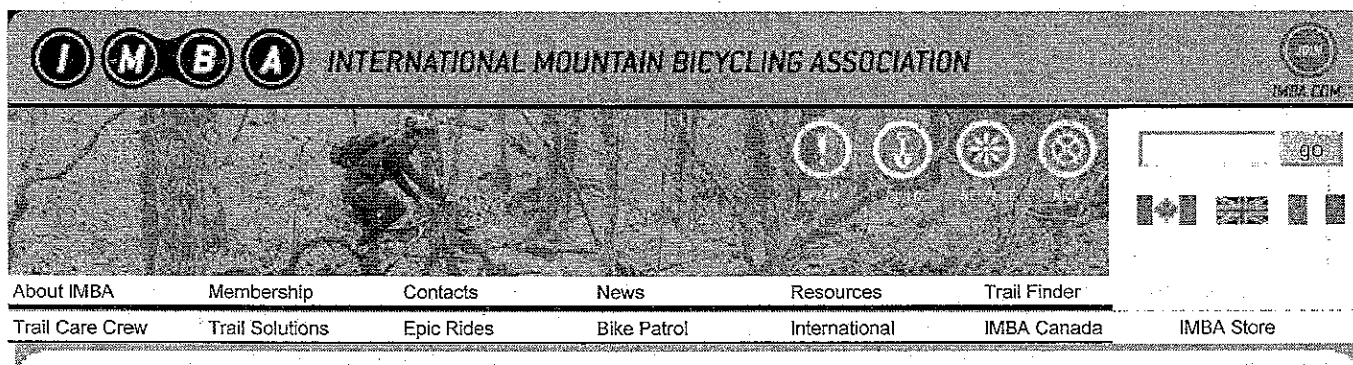
Public Art
challenge facility with climbing wall
hiking
multi-use trail
Picnicking
Canoeing/Kayaking

questions

Is this an exhibit, a class?, a
multiday program?
Is this part of the park design as a
matter of course?; Can
bird/butterfly garden be an
example? If not, need specific idea
to relate to readers.

Errors and Omissions

horseback riding
Skateboarding



<http://www.imba.com> > [resources](#) > [agencies](#) > [acoe_mou_02.html](#)

United States Army Corps of Engineers/IMBA Memorandum of Understanding, 2002

Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the International Mountain Bicycling Association

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this twenty-eighth day of September, 2002, between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, hereinafter referred to as the Corps, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association, hereinafter referred to as IMBA.

ARTICLE I: BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES

WHEREAS:

- The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a framework for cooperation and partnership between the Corps and IMBA to assist one another, in areas of mutual interest and concern;
- The Corps is the steward of 12 million acres of land and water resources, manages 4,340 recreation sites at 456 lakes, approximately 56,000 miles of shoreline, 101,000 campsites, 5,000 miles of trails, and receives approximately 400 million visits annually;
- IMBA leads the national and worldwide mountain bicycling communities through a network of 32,000 individual members and more than 450 affiliated clubs; teaches sustainable trailbuilding techniques and has become a leader in trail design, construction, and maintenance; encourages responsible riding, volunteer trailwork, and cooperation among trail user groups and land managers;
- The Corps and IMBA recognize the community benefits of recreation on trail systems that connect waterways, parks, and neighborhoods; that recreation promotes economic livelihood, providing jobs and economic stability for American communities;
- The Corps and IMBA encourage youth physical and intellectual development through outdoor recreation and educational activities;
- 80 percent of Corps recreation sites are within 50 miles of a large U.S. city, and IMBA and the Corps recognize the importance of preserving trail opportunities for urban fringe communities that are facing development pressures; and
- The Corps and IMBA have an established working relationship that has already helped facilitate mountain bicycling on Corps recreation sites;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Corps and IMBA agree to partner at appropriate local, regional and national levels to create, manage and develop trail opportunities for mountain bicycling at Corps facilities.

ARTICLE II: RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with existing laws, regulations, and policy and subject to the availability of funds, both parties mutually agree to:

1. Work closely in accomplishing common goals and objectives.
2. Increase awareness of Corps and IMBA resources by showcasing joint projects, programs, and partnerships.
3. Educate Corps and IMBA constituencies regarding this MOU and the mutually beneficial opportunities IMBA presents.
4. Showcase Corps mountain bike management success stories.
5. Look for opportunities to jointly develop trail projects at Corps facilities for mountain bicycling trail opportunities.
6. Look for opportunities to jointly conduct IMBA-led land manager trailbuilding schools at Corps facilities.
7. Encourage collaboration between Corps personnel and IMBA representatives and clubs to create, maintain, and manage mountain bicycling at Corps facilities.
8. Acknowledge mountain bicycling as a recreation option at applicable Corps facilities.
9. Establish a Corps and IMBA point of contact for the duration of the agreement and provide written notice of contact changes.

ARTICLE III: CONDITIONS

A. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION. This MOU may be modified by mutual written agreement of both parties or may be terminated by either party with the provision of 60 days written notice to the other.

B. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This MOU in no way restricts the parties from participating with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals on similar agreements. All parties recognize the importance of cooperation and partnership with other organizations and institutions of mutual interest.

C. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either of the parties to expend funds or to enter into any future contract, supplemental agreement, or obligation with the other. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Specifically, this MOU does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the IMBA of any contract or other agreement.

D. FORCE AND EFFECT. The Corps and IMBA intend to conduct the aforementioned activities in this agreement in accordance with existing authorities. If any provisions of this MOU are determined to be inconsistent with existing laws, regulations, or directives governing the signatories, then only those provisions of this MOU not affected by a finding of inconsistency shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE IV: EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU becomes effective with both signatures on the last date written below and remains in effect until modified or terminated.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Robert B. Flowers

September 30, 2002

Date _____

Robert B. Flowers
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

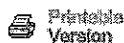
International Mountain Bicycling Association

Tim Blumenthal

September 28, 2002

Date _____

Tim Blumenthal, Executive Director



There is a predominant notion among policymakers that parks, recreation and open space are "non-essential" services that only benefit users and program participants.¹ Because policymakers do not view these services as benefiting the majority of the population, the agencies involved in the provision of these services many times get short changed when competing for limited funds against services perceived as "essential." However, substantial research exists that demonstrates the "public" benefits of parks, recreation and open space. These include economic development, alleviating social problems, and environmental stewardship.²

I. Economic development

A. Attracting tourists

B. Attracting Business

1. Small business owners rank recreation/parks/open space as the highest priority for relocating³
2. According to the National Park Service, CEOs of large corporations say quality of life for employees is the third-most important factor in locating a business, behind only access to domestic markets and availability of skilled labor.

C. Attracting Retirees

1. Communities lacking a high number of recreation opportunities for retirees are likely to see tax base erosion due to a loss in spending attributed to this statistically affluent group of people.⁴

D. Enhancing Real Estate Values

1. Public parkland and open space often increase the value of nearby properties and results in an incremental increase in property taxes – this increase is frequently sufficient to pay for acquisition and development costs.
 - i) Research indicates that there is a positive impact of 20% on property values abutting or fronting passive park areas.
 - a) If the park is large (exceeding more than 25 acres), well maintained, and has mainly passive use then this estimate is low.
 - b) If the park is small and embraces some active use, than the estimate is probably high.

¹ Crompton, J. L. (1999). *Measuring Economic Impact of visitors to sports tournaments and special events*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association. Retrieved December 11, 2002, from the World Wide Web: <http://rptsweb.tamu.edu/Faculty/CROMPTON.HTM>

² Crompton, John L. *The Impact of Parks and Open Space on Property Values and the Property Tax Base*. Ashburn, VA: Division of Professional Services, National Recreation and Park Association, 2000. SB486 .F54 C7 2000. Retrieved December 11, 2002, from the World Wide Web: <http://rptsweb.tamu.edu/Faculty/CROMPTON.HTM>

³ Crompton, John L., Lisa L. Love, and Thomas A. More, "An Empirical Study of the Role of Recreation, Parks and Open Space in Companies' (Re)Location Decisions," *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* (1997), 37-58

⁴ Crompton, John L. (2001). *Parks and Economic Development*, Available for purchase on the World Wide Web: <http://www.planning.org/bookservice/description.htm?BCODE=P502>

- ii) If the park is heavily used and incorporates athletic fields and a swimming pool, then the proximate value increment may be minimal on abutting properties but may reach 10% on properties two or three blocks away.
- 2. The impact area for parkland and open space on property values is likely substantial out to 500 feet.
 - i) The impact area for community parks is likely to extend out to 2,000 feet
 - ii) Some studies suggest that for larger parks, the impact area may extend beyond 2,000 feet, however it is harder to ascertain property value impacts beyond 2,000 feet because of the increase in other variables.

II. Alleviating social problems

A. Preventing youth crime

- 1. A report sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, states that increased access to community physical activity facilities would not online help increase youth physical activity, but may also "be beneficial for crime and violence prevention and other social programs, because most juvenile crime is committed between 3 and 8 p.m."⁵

B. Healthy lifestyles

- 1. The U.S. Surgeon General, David Satcher, recommended in the national plan to combat obesity that communities create playgrounds, urban walking trails and sidewalks.⁶
- 2. In *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity*, one of the recommended actions is: "Encourage the use of school facilities for physical activity programs offered by the school and/or community-based organizations outside of school hours."⁷

C. Environmental Stress

D. Unemployment and Underemployment

III. Environmental Stewardship

A. Historical Preservation

B. The Natural Environment

⁵ *Healthy People 2010* (November 2000) Objectives: Access: Section 22-12. Retrieved December 12, 2002 from the World Wide Web:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/document/HTML/Volume2/22Physical.htm#_Toc490380804

⁶ *The Surgeon General's Call to Action Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity* available for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20401-0001; phone: toll free 1-866-512-1800; fax 202-512-2250; order online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>. The stock number is 017-001-00551-7; the cost is \$5.50 per copy.

⁷ *The Surgeon General's Call to Action Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity*, Section 2.2.2: Setting 2: Schools. Retrieved December 12, 2002 from the World Wide Web: http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/obesity/calltoaction/2_2_2.htm

COMMITTEE MEETING #: 12, January 25, 2006

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

“Top Ten Reasons Parks are Important” article

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - January 25, 2006

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: January 25, 2006

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Anna Smith	Master Plan Committee Member
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Martha Svoboda	Committee Alternate
Mike Kafsky	Parks and Rec Department
George Stanziale	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Nicole Taddune	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Steve Schilling	Guest
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly

Purpose: The meeting was held to present the Final Master Plan and the Priority Element Recommendations and to achieve approval on both from the Master Plan Committee.

- 1) Mary Alice called the meeting to order.
- 2) Aram Attarian disseminated an article from Parks and Recreation Magazine entitled “Top 10 Reasons Parks are Important.”
- 3) Deb Pribonic made a motion to add additional comments to the December 14th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved. Deb disseminated the additional comments for committee review. The motion was approved unanimously. An addendum with the additional comments to the December 14th meeting minutes will be posted on the City website.
- 4) Deb Pribonic disseminated a number of additions and changes to the January 11th, 2006 meeting minutes for the committee to review. The first requested change to the meeting minutes was to add the word “climbing wall” to all references of “ropes course” as stated under item 1b. The change was approved. A discussion ensued about the level of detail that is to be included in the minutes. No other of Deby’s changes or comments were discussed.
- 5) Ed Teague made a motion to remove the word “education” under meeting minute #16 of the January 11th, 2006 meeting minutes to read “Ed Teague made a motion to consider removing Adventure theme...”. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 6) A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the January 11th meeting. The motion was approved 12-0 with 1 abstain.
- 7) Mary Alice Farrell stated that the ultimate objective of the meeting was to approve a Master Plan to go to a public meeting. The public meeting will be advertised and the public invited to attend and comment on the Committee approved Master Plan.
- 8) Greg Barley communicated the process for achieving approval for the Master Plan.
 - a. Consultants present final master plan
 - b. Committee will seek a motion to approve master plan
 - c. Motions can be made to make amendments to the plan
 - d. Attain final approval of master plan
 - e. Motion to approve Priority Program Elements
 - f. Amendments can be made to the motion until approval of Priority Program Elements
- 9) Mary Alice made a motion to approve master plan as presented. The motion was seconded and approved for discussion.
- 10) Anna Smith asked Carol Banaitis about the boardwalk crossings proposed on the plan. Carol stated that the COE will look closely at these and that construction methodology will be critical to allowing these to occur.
- 11) Anna Smith made a motion to amend the Master Plan by changing the surface of the southern portion of the paved park trail into a pervious surface. The motion was seconded and approved 11-1-1(abstain).
- 12) Charles Rinker stated that he would like to see the Master Plan Report define the multi-use activity areas as not allowing organized sports to occur on them.
- 13) Ed Teague stated that he would like it noted that he would still like the Adventure theme scaled back in the park.
- 14) A motion was made to vote on the Final Master Plan as presented with the 1 amendment to change the surface on the southern portion of the paved park trail. The Final Master Plan was approved with the 1 amendment 11-2.
- 15) Todd Parrott presented the Program Priority Elements.
- 16) A motion was made to move Forest Ridge Park South, minus the Disc Golf and with the removal of the Overlook, to HIGH priority. Unanimously approved.
- 17) There was a consensus to remove disc golf from priorities as it will not be built with Parks and Recreation funds.
- 18) A motion was made to move the Lakeside Center to HIGH and to leave everything else the same.
- 19) A substitute motion was made to the motion stated in #19 to move Lakeside Center, minus camping to HIGH and to move Retreat Center and Ropes Course to LOW priority. Motion failed 9-3-1(abstain).
- 20) The committee returned to the original motion stated in #19. Motion was approved 7-6.
- 21) A motion was made to move the Lakeside Center from HIGH to MEDIUM. The motion was seconded and the motion approved 7-5-1(abstain).
- 22) A motion was made to move the Overnight Lodge to LOW from MEDIUM. The motion was seconded and defeated 11-2.
- 23) Priority Program Elements were approved 11-2 as follows:
 - a. HIGH
 - i. Adventure Education and Retreat Center
 - ii. Multi-Use Activity Area (North)
 - iii. Paved Park Trail to Point (North Section)
 - iv. Lakeside Center
 - v. Forest Ridge Park "South"
 - vi. Associated Roads
 - b. MEDIUM
 - i. Overnight Lodge
 - ii. Paved Park trail with alternate surface (South Section)
 - iii. Associated Roads
 - c. LOW

- i. Camping area
- ii. Associated roads and building

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

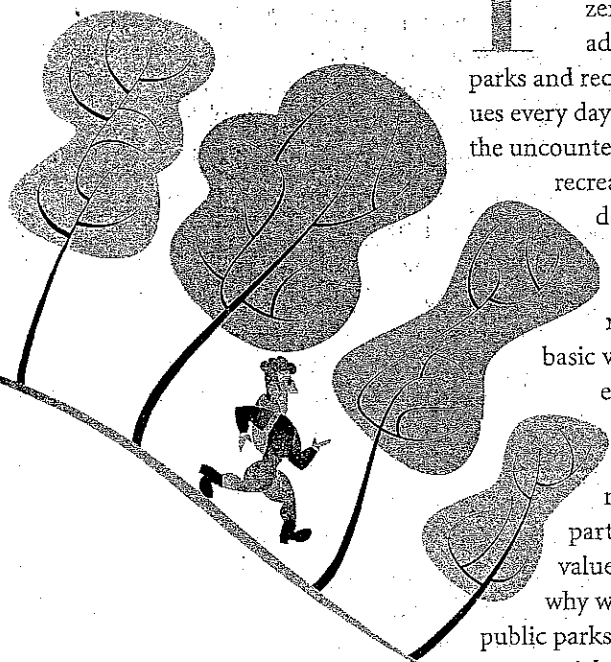
Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

Advocacy Update: Top Ten Reasons Parks are Important

The values of public parks and recreation in America.

By Richard J. Dolesh,
Monica Hobbs Vinluan
and Michael Phillips



Public park and recreation facilities and programs offer countless values to our citizens and to our country. As advocates and supporters of parks and recreation who live these values every day, we may sometimes take the uncoun-
tred benefits of parks and recreation for granted. So we don't lose sight of the forest for the trees, every once in awhile it is useful to remind ourselves of these basic values and reaffirm their essential worth.

The following "top ten" list of park and recreation values are in no particular order, but this list of values encompass the range of why we collectively believe that public parks and recreation are an essential part of our national heritage:

1. Public parks provide millions of Americans with the opportunity to be physically active. Physical activity is an essential part of an individual's efforts to stay healthy, fight obesity and prevent chronic conditions that lead to coronary disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Having close-to-home access to places where one can recreate is one of the most important factors linking whether people will become active and stay that way.

2. Parks have true economic benefits. Proximity to a developed state, regional

or community park improves property value. The economic benefits of park and recreation areas are manifold, but one of the most significant is the increase in value of private land adjacent or near protected public land. The proximity of parks to residential areas leads to increased value of private land, a higher tax base and ultimately many economic benefits to a community including increased local and regional revenue from heritage tourism, steady jobs, and numerous small business benefits. Park and recreation areas are economic engines that improve the quality of life and make communities livable and desirable for businesses and homeowners.

3. Parks provide vital green space in a fast-developing American landscape, and provide vegetative buffers to construction and development, thus reducing the effects of sprawl. More importantly, parks and public lands also provide groundwater recharge areas, floodplain protection, natural sound barriers, stormwater protection from wetlands, reductions in heat island effects, and carbon uptake from abundant trees and vegetation. Parks keep our living environment healthy.

4. Parks preserve critical wildlife habitat. As our nation develops and our rural, agricultural and forest landscape is being lost, open space and wildlife habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate. The connected network of local, regional, state and national parks across our country provide perma-

Advocacy Update

nently protected wildlife habitat corridors for thousands of indigenous and migratory wildlife species. In addition, stream valley parks and community parks allow natural wildlife to co-exist with people while providing enjoyment and educational opportunity for children and families.

5. Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions that are critical to maintaining community cohesion and pride. Parks provide a meeting place where community members can develop social ties, and where healthy behavior is modeled and admired. People gather to share experiences, socialize and to build community bonds in common green spaces. These public commons are often the glue that holds the community together and the means to maintaining and improving future positive social interactions.

6. Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduces stress and enhances a sense of wellness. In an increasingly complex world, more and more people are placing a high value on achieving the feelings of relaxation and peacefulness that contact with nature, recreation and exposure to natural open spaces bring. People go to the park to get in a better mood, to reinvigorate

themselves and to decrease the anxieties of daily life.

7. Recreational programs provide organized, structured, enjoyable activities for all ages. The diverse range of recreational programs offered by public park and recreation agencies offer all Americans the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to successfully and confidently engage in sports, dance, crafts and other social activities. Public recreation leagues and classes offer seniors, adults and children alike the opportunity to interact with coaches and teachers who often turn into mentors and role models. Quality recreational programs facilitate safety, good sportsmanship and community participation.

8. Community recreation services provide a refuge of safety for at-risk youth. Many parents are rightfully concerned with the dangers of unstructured 'hanging-out' or unsupervised after-school activities. Community recreation programs at public park and recreation facilities provide children with a safe refuge and a place to play, which are important in reducing at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement. Recreational programs led by trained leaders offer children healthy role models and give valuable life les-

sons to help steer youth to a future of promise and opportunity for success.

9. Therapeutic recreation is an outlet that individuals with disabilities have to be physically active, socially engaged and cognitively stimulated. A goal of all public recreation agencies is to provide access to all people. Public park and recreation agencies are the largest providers in America of high-quality, life-enhancing, therapeutic recreation programs and interventions. Such programs prevent the on-set of secondary conditions due to inactivity, improve physical, social, emotional and cognitive functioning, and slow the onset regressive conditions.

10. Public parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands for the benefit and use of all. Since the creation of the first national park in the early 1900s and the subsequent development and growth of state, regional and local park systems in virtually every part of our nation, Americans have had a special relationship with their parks and public lands. A love of parks is one of the defining characteristics of our national identity. Americans love their parks, historic sites, national monuments, recreation areas and public open spaces because they bring such joy and pleasure to all people. In addition, the American public has shown time after time that they are willing to care for their parks, protect them, and pay for them.

This "top ten" list is a resource for advocates to use in multiple ways—as background information to educate elected officials and members of Congress on the values of park and recreation; as key points when preparing testimony or letters; and as inspiration and positive reinforcement when the going gets tough. This list offers positive messages for why funding for park acquisition and development should be a priority as well as justification for why

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recreation programming is essential in every community that cares about its youth, its families and its seniors.

Citizens can and should carry these messages and not be shy about posing—and answering—this question to elected officials: “Why are parks and recreation resources important to our community?” These points can be helpful to local advocates who campaign for bond initiatives to support open space conservation and park acquisition, and they will assist those who lobby their local, state or national legislators to support funds for recreational programming.

Agencies can publish this list in their program guides and post it on their community and virtual bulletin boards. Policy and budgetary decision-makers at all levels, from city councils to economic development authorities to zoning boards to state legislatures need to be educated and informed about the true values of parks and recreation.

Richard J. Dolesh is acting director of NRPA's Public Policy Division. Monica Hobbs Vinluan is the senior policy associate for health and wellness issues. Michael Phillips is policy and advocacy specialist for the division.

Put your advocacy in action, and bring your own list of why you value parks and recreation to the 2006 National Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation, Feb. 15-17, in Washington DC. Register now. Can't make it to the Legislative Forum? Send a fax or an e-mail to your United States Senators or Representative supporting NRPA's national legislative priorities and federal funding for parks and recreation during the National Legislative Forum Feb. 15-17. For more information, see www.nrpa.org/forum.

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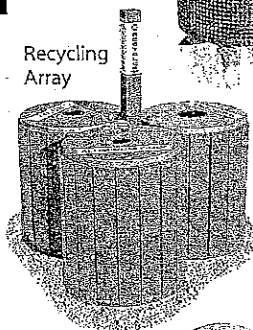
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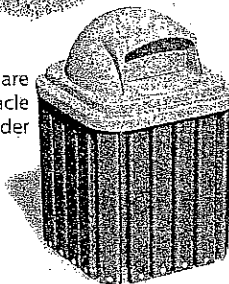
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Holder



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Receptacle
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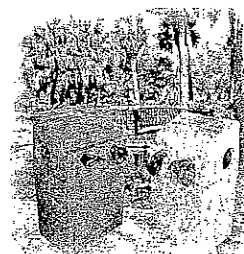
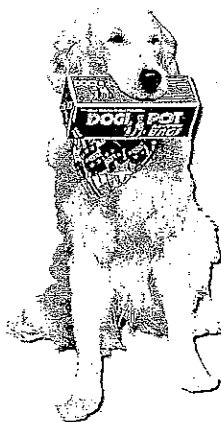
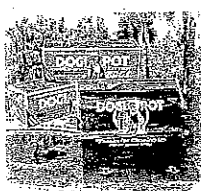


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COMMITTEE MEETING #: 13, March 22, 2006

References:

Committee Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2006 City Administration Meeting Minutes

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COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - March 22, 2006

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: March 22, 2006

Location: Green Road Community Center, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh P & R Dept. – Park Planner
Mary Alice Farrell	Master Plan Committee Member Chair
Greg Barley	Master Plan Committee Member Vice Chair
Aram Attarian	Master Plan Committee Member
Carol Banaitis	Master Plan Committee Member
Tom McHugh	Master Plan Committee Member
Anthony Pilarinos	Master Plan Committee Member
Debra Pribonic	Master Plan Committee Member
Charles Rinker	Master Plan Committee Member
Ed Teague	Master Plan Committee Member
Libby Wilcox	Master Plan Committee Member
Chris Snow	Master Plan Committee Member
Billy Totten	Master Plan Committee Member
Susan Simpson	Master Plan Committee Member
Martha Svoboda	Committee Alternate
Mike Kafsky	City of Raleigh P & R Dept.
Mary Van Haaften	City of Raleigh P & R Dept.
Robert Massengill	City of Raleigh P & R Dept.
Diane Sauer	City of Raleigh P & R Dept.
Ivan Dickey	City of Raleigh P & R Dept.
Tom Freeman	USCOE
George Stanziale	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Joe Angelone	Guest
Bill Camp	Guest SORBA
Bill Warner	Guest
Hugh Fosbury	Guest
Brett Jarvis	Guest
Renee Jarvis	Guest
Sara Davis	Guest
Aaron Bittikofer	Guest
Dean Collis	Guest
Katherine Seligmann	Guest
Harry Hastings	Guest
Javier Servna	News and Observer
Wayne Marshall	PRGAB
Jan Kirschbauer	PRGAB
LaToya Sutton	The Wake Weekly

Purpose: The meeting was held to review last month's public meeting comments, discuss potential revisions to the Master plan, and achieve approval from the Master Plan Committee.

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- 1) Mary Alice called the meeting to order.
- 2) The following public comment was heard:
 - Bill Warner (public citizen) requested time to talk to the committee about the costs of the park, staying within budget and the priority level of the Adventure Center. Mr Warner requested that the committee prioritize budget and development the way taxpayers are asking.
 - Hugh Fosbury (public citizen) asked why a Parks and Recreation letter was sent out to park patrons about the proposed Adventure Center plans. Vic responded that the P&R dept. tries to keep the public informed about P&R issues.
 - Brett Jarvis (public citizen) representing the Falls of the Neuse Homeowners Association stated that they supported the park but only within the stated four million dollar budget so that the park does not become a tax burden to the public.
- 3) Deb Pribronic requested that item no. 4 in Jan. meeting minutes to be revised to the following text: Deby disseminated a number of additions and changes to the January 11th 2006, meeting minutes for the committee to review. The first requested change to the meeting minutes was to add the work "climbing wall" to all references of "ropes course" as stated under item 1b. The change was approved. A discussion ensued about the level of detail that is to be included in the minutes. No other of Deby's changes or additions were discussed.
- 4) Ed Teague made a motion to amend last January's meeting minutes to reflect that last month's meeting minutes had incorrectly listed Lakeside Center as a high priority when it should have been listed under the medium priority list. Motion was seconded and approved by all.
- 5) Greg Barley spoke to the committee about the main concerns that came out of last months public meeting as follows:
 - a. Increase single track trails
 - b. Park program prioritiesHe also mentioned to the committee that their purpose in setting priorities was to guide the future decision making process by the P&R dept. and that the committees decisions was not to be based upon funding.
- 6) A general discussion ensued as to whether the committee in the last meeting prioritized the list with phasing and budget amounts in mind or not.
- 7) Greg Barley intervened and explained that items of importance should be rated, etc. and that the first phase park elements would eventually be decided by the Parks and Rec. dept.
- 8) Vic also reiterated that after City Council makes a decision on the Master Plan the Parks and Rec. dept would make a decision what elements would fall under the first phase of the project and that during the design phase of the project, the committee would be called back to review the direction the project was going in and that it was within compliance of the Master Plan document. He also explained that in reality, the first phase of the project would be a combination of high to low priority elements based upon the budget (i.e. low or no cost items to the City such as the mountain bike trails and disk golf would be built early on).
- 9) The committee asked Vic what he thought the first phase might entail. He cautioned that he could not speak for all the decision makers, but thought that the first phase could possibly have a combination of the following:
 - a. Multi use area
 - b. Some form of Adventure / Activity area including adequate space for staff and storage, a ropes course and climbing wall
 - c. Single track bike trails
 - d. Disk golf
 - e. Wilderness trails
- 10) Vic also mentioned that there are additional funding sources besides future bond referendums such as grants that could be applied for yearly to help expedite the completion of the park.

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- 11) Committee members asked what the next steps were after tonight. Greg explained that following a 30 day public notification period, the Master Plan goes to the Parks Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) for review and approval (the Plan could change based upon comments from them). If the plan is approved by the PRGAB, it then goes to City Council for review and comment. The Council also has the right to modify the Plan based upon their review of the project. Concurrent to this process, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) and NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) will also review the Plan; their comments could further modify the Plan. Once the Plan is approved, the project then goes into the site design phase.
- 12) Charles Rinker then asked what was the timeline for all of this to occur. Vic explained that most likely, the Plan would be presented to the PRGAB in May or June 2006 and will include a 30 day public notice. He mentioned that certain items such as an Environmental Assessment (EA) will take at least six months.
- 13) Tom McHugh discussed with the committee that he was concerned with the cost of the Adventure Center. Vic again explained that the main objective is to provide a balanced first phase for the park that would contain park elements that could be enjoyed by as many diverse groups as possible as quickly as possible. "Parks for the People".
- 14) Debra Pribonic asked about the role of the committee at 30% design. Vic responded that the committee's role will be to review and advise on the project with regard to the adopted Master Plan.
- 15) Charles made a motion to expand the single track bike trails to 20 miles.
- 16) Haden Stanziale subsequently unveiled a plan that showed what 15 miles could look like on the site for committee discussion.
- 17) A question was directed to Bill Camp whether 15 miles was sufficient. Bill said that it would be satisfactory.
- 18) Carol Banaitis commented that the USCOE did not want to impose a specific set mileage to the park and that essentially the mileage would be dictated by actual site conditions or carrying capacity constraints of the land (i.e. erosion potential, wildlife endangerment, and fragmentation of the site). Carol further explained that the USCOE is concerned about too many multiple loops and intersecting spider webs."
- 19) Billy Totten mentioned that you have to analyze the site conditions and potential impact to determine the appropriate trail length. You cannot arbitrarily set a specific mileage, only a goal. He also said that state and federal agencies look at trails in terms of perpetuity and that they all cause erosion.
- 20) The committee discussed using the following text in the Master Plan to read "up to 20 miles" of single track trails.
- 21) A motion was made to change the Master Plan book text to "up to 20 miles for single track bike trails". Motion passed 12-1.
- 22) A discussion followed regarding trail volunteers. Bill Camp informed the committee that their volunteers have been doing trail building and maintenance for 20 years and currently maintain approximately 32 miles of trail.
- 23) Anthony Pilarinos made a motion to add the following text before the priorities list as follows: The Priority Program Elements represent groupings of proposed program elements into high, medium, and low priority levels. These priorities are intended to broadly define the phasing of the major park elements over a 20 year period. The first stage of park development will focus on implementing those features within the high priority category that are likely to provide the highest value to the broadest portion of the public. The selection of these high value features will be constrained by both the detailed costing factors derived from the initial design and by the available funding. During the early stages of initial design additional funding sources will be explored. Motioned passed 13-0.
- 24) Ed Teague made the following motion: Include within the high priority elements the following items: the multi use activity area, all trails, Forest Ridge Park South, roads, infrastructure, signage, and entrance ways, in that order. Discussion followed. The motion was seconded.

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- 25) Anthony Pilarinos then made the following substitute motion: Special emphasis should be place on incorporating the primary benefits of the multi use areas, trails, core infrastructure, and Forest Ridge Park South during phase one. Discussion followed. Motion failed 3-10.
- 26) Anthony Pilarinos made another substitute motion as follows: Special emphasis should be placed on prorating the funding to realize the primary benefits of each of the high priority elements. Motion passed 12-1.
- 27) Libby Wilcox made the following motion: Increase the wilderness trails as site conditions allow, up to 5 miles. Motion passed 13-0.
- 28) Vic Lebsock provided an overview of the last week's meeting with the City Administration and mentioned to the committee that the lake in this area is considered a Class B area which prohibits swimming. NCDENR's Department of Water Quality (DWQ) is the regulating body on this issue.
- 29) Next steps: Greg Barley informed the committee that the matter will now be referred to the PRGAB (see item #11 above).

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

From: [Anna Huckabee Smith](#)
To: ntaddune@hadenstanziale.com; [Lebsock, Victor](#); [Sauer, Diane](#); [Schindler, Wayne](#); [Mary Alice Farrell](#); [Aram Attarian](#); [Carol Banaitas](#); [Greg Barley \(E-mail\)](#); [Van Haaften, Mary](#); [Charles JRinker](#); [Karen McHugh](#); [Anthony Pilarinos](#); [Deby Pribonic](#); [Douglas R. Henderson](#); [Russ Redd](#); [Susan Simpson](#); [Chris Snow](#); [Martha Svoboda](#); [Ed Teague](#); [Billy Totten](#); tparrott@hadenstanziale.com; [Britt Wester](#); [Libby Wilcox](#);
CC:
Subject: thoughts on the park--please read before Wed night
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 8:19:32 PM
Attachments: [reaction to public meeting.doc](#)

Dear Forest Ridge Park Group,

I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow night due to a conflicting conference for which my attendance is mandatory. However, I did want you all to know my reaction to the public meeting, email comments, news releases, and Draft Plan. Bear with me; please read this email in its entirety and please allow copies to be given to any attending public that may be interested. Thank you. *I have also attached a Word document of this email in case the formatting messed up.*

I found that the most common issues the public did not understand included the following:

- Radius that this park serves (population)
- Hwy 98 access and potential upkeep
- What the Committee was charged with determining (budgets and engineering facts were not on our plates).
- The prioritization system—each item in the High, Medium, and Low

columns do not correspond to a sub-ranking system of 1 through 5, for example, with the first on the list being more important than others in that same category.

- Environmental and cultural resource surveys that have already been done by consultants and the Natural Heritage Program. Concerns included plants and bald eagles which have been addressed.
- Misunderstanding of what elements may be put in for free if clubs and other groups assist with their design (e.g. disc golf and some trails).
- What constitutes “wildlife/habitat disturbance.”

I’m not sure how these concerns were addressed by Vic as I only saw 2 email responses he gave. I would have liked to have seen all responses by Park staff to inquiries made about the Plan.

Of course the most vocal citizens had two requests: (1) scale back the “fancy stuff” (get rid of some of the buildings) and concentrate on low-impact / quick to open features such the trails and picnic shelters; and (2) create more miles of mountain bike trails. I heard them quote a range of mileage there now such as 6.5 to 8 miles. I think our charge as a committee is to listen to the voice of the citizens and try to get the most enjoyable and easily accessible features planned out first and up and running. Perhaps it is an appropriate time to revisit some of our larger themes such as the Lodge, Lakeside Center, and Adventure Center and try to focus our energies more efficiently. Although how to finance this park was not in our job description, the public is right—if money does not become available in the future for further phases, we may lose key elements through our prioritization process. With that said, I would like to share with you a different version of the Park, one that is scaled back yet still includes the adventure-like theme. Even if the Adventure Education Program as a whole has not had a tremendous following, it should be encouraged for the physical and mental health benefits it provides the citizens of Raleigh. However, we shouldn’t go out on a limb to build a super center, only what is truly needed to give the programs a chance to succeed.

Here in the Piedmont, we are stuck between two much more exciting extremes, honestly—(1) the mountains with its waterfalls, whitewater, rock climbing, ski slopes, challenging hiking trails such as the AT, bears, and magnificent vistas; and (2) the coast with its sandy beaches, dolphins, shells, moss-covered oaks, historic buildings, and seafood. Here in the Piedmont, we should try to work with what we

have and that is great river systems and lakes as well as unique habitats such as long leaf pine forests and riverine communities. Instead of trying to be all things for all people, let's focus on those program elements that would make us unique and showcase our ecoregion. That is where the Adventure Program comes in. According to Raleigh Parks and other park departments with Adventure Programming, activities include:

- Providing naturalists for nature hikes
- Canoe trips and associated river camping
- Kayaking
- Sailing
- Rock climbing
- Camping skills
- Wilderness first aid
- Bike trail rides (intro classes)
- Out-of-town trips for skiing, etc.

Notice that many of these are water-related which fits the main theme of Forest Ridge Park and got 41% of our votes and a large number of public survey votes (40.2%). Let's stick to those first and make them outstanding in the state. What if the **Lakeside Center** just had the following?....

- A small building to store rental boats (kayaks and canoes, life jackets, paddles, etc.). Attached would be a restroom. Outside would be a covered meeting area with tables for instruction before getting in the water. Soda and snack machines would also be available. By the boat launch and dock would be one of the two fishing piers. The beach would remain with its associated picnic tables and small playground. So what was removed? Take out the bath house (I've never seen this for a freshwater area), extra restrooms at that bath house, and the indoor classroom. This should help scale back building costs while still providing the essentials for the water sports.

Moving on to **camping** which is a big adventure element.... When I think of true camping, especially as an adventure sport, I think of "roughing it" like where the canoer's primitive camping site where they sleep in tents, have no cars parked

beside them, and have no bathrooms or showers. I understand the complaint that Scouts need group facilities, but when I was a Girl Scout, we set up a large tent over a raised wooden platform and slept in sleeping bags. Yurts did not exist and we got the true feeling that we were camping. This large group camping site is not so much a problem for me as a waste in some aspects. If it is manageable by park staff at the site, I would rather see more primitive camping aspects (no grills, power, water, phones --except one emergency phone--, showers, parking at tents, or fancy housing).

Then there is the **Overnight Lodge** which to me seems like a redundancy on the camping theme. However, it is neither “adventurous” nor practical. Why have an extra building with an industrial kitchen, bonfire site (same as Adventure Ed Center), 75 guest rooms, large meeting room, caretaker residence (wasn’t this moved elsewhere?), and shower facilities? I didn’t think we were attracting out-of-town conference-goers to this site. I recommend removing this element completely and allowing a large loop trail to go in here which ties back into the main park road entrance trails. This trail can be designated for mountain bikers. That should give them some more mileage.

The **Adventure Education and Retreat Center** can be scaled back as well if we are willing to concentrate on what elements we can provide really well instead of trying to do everything. There are education centers at nearby parks such as Blue Jay Point. Instead of taking away business from the various parks in the Raleigh Parks System, why not make each the best they can be and offer different things at different parks? That said we should be able to scale back the classroom size to one which includes a wet lab area. There can be a small office that would be a good welcome center for the park, but this park is for outdoor amusement so the center does not need to be a museum or something that makes people want to hang out indoors. Simple exhibits could be in the front lobby which, in itself, does not need to be large (see lobby at Jordan Lake ACE office for an example). The key is providing cool photos (archeological sites, wildlife, etc.) and concise park information. As with the Overnight Lodge, the Retreat Center should be removed from consideration, in my opinion. Two outside activity shelters could remain or be combined with a small (30-seat) amphitheater and taking out the larger amphitheater. In all, the following would be removed from this site as a whole:

- Exhibit rooms
- Lockers

- Play space
- Extra classrooms and labs; library
- Equipment rental (provided at ropes course or where needed at Lakeside Center)
- Indoor climbing wall
- Fitness room (this isn't a club or city rec center)
- Showers
- Whole Retreat/Conference Center

What would remain would include:

- Restrooms
- Outdoor meeting shelters (education stations)
- Storage room
- Small lobby with simple exhibits
- welcome center office with first aid station
- One classroom
- Outdoor climbing wall

The **Multi-use Activity Fields** seem to excite people because there will be picnic tables, open play space for kite flying, kickball, etc. I think this element should stay. I also suggest that the edges that are to be maintained in wildlife edge habitat be designed by natural resource professionals. The play fields should be seeded in native grasses and not graded and sodded. "Providing wildlife habitat enhancements" received 33% of our committee's votes. Some such areas are around the open play field edges, but we can also encourage environmental educators to have bird box construction classes and build a butterfly/hummingbird garden near the border.

Disc golf courses apparently are provided free to parks through club partnerships that set up the course and supply the goals. Minimal clearing should be strictly adhered to as well as no night lighting in these areas.

The **Ropes Course** does not seem to be detrimental to the park and may even encourage people to get out and enjoy nature. An outdoor meeting shelter and storage facility with single restroom should suffice.

Forest Ridge Park South provides the small playground, picnic shelters, access to the disc golf course and fishing piers the public can utilize right away. It should remain in the plan as is. This is the best place to install the first fishing access points since it is the shortest walk from the car to the lake when carrying fishing tackle.

On the newest map, there now seems to be an extra site for a \$175,000 **caretaker's house and \$75,000 maintenance facility**. These should be incorporated into either the Lakeside Center or Adventure Ed Center. This is what I keep talking about when I say cluster, group, and consolidate! This is excessive. If you have to, move the Adventure Ed Center closer to the main entrance to double its use as a welcome center/sign in station.

In my opinion, I would do a new ranking of the park elements, considering the above revisions. It would be as follows:

HIGH

All trails and signage (various costs for the various types of trails)
Multi-use areas with picnic shelters and a bathroom at each
Appropriate parking for only these High priority elements
Disc golf (no cost)

MEDIUM

Lakeside Center (knowing that canoeing and kayaking can already begin right away)
Parking as needed
Storage and maintenance facilities
Forest Ridge Park South with a bathroom and small parking lot

LOW

Amphitheater and other outside class shelters
Fishing piers
Camp sites
Adventure Center (scaled down version)

The only way to keep certain elements from taking priority over others that may not be as flashy is to remove the overdone elements from the Plan altogether.

I have a big concern over the proposed **whitewater course** down below this park, even though we were told not to worry with those details. Stream channel modifications would have to occur just so we had somewhere to play. This doesn't seem right. We aren't in an area where we have true whitewater so why create it? Focus on something else and don't tamper with the streams. Talk about permitting issues!

The biggest controversy seems to be the **trail systems**. Forest Ridge Park currently has many trails and (hopefully) conserved habitats for the naturalists to show to visitors through interpretive walks. All trails should be pervious, and ADA trails may also have pervious surface material that has been approved. I know they make some. The hikers have most of the peninsula for casual strolls while the mountain bikers have the various other coves and north-south axis of the park for longer treks. This helps separate user groups to avoid conflicts. Where they both have to share the multi-use trail, this is a learning opportunity in tolerance and sharing.

If I may, I would like to clear up some misunderstandings about the impacts humans have on wildlife and their habitats, regardless of user group (hiker, biker, etc.). The issue is human access to all parts of the parcel, not necessarily who is using what trail. I did some research on the various mountain bike websites and with the assistance of NC State and found a quote that seemed to sum it up best —“A 1987 effort, funded by the US Dept. of Agriculture, found that only one user group clearly messes up wild places, those who build trails in the first place. Every group's impact after that is relatively negligible” (Danz 1999). Basically, any trails, regardless of type, need to be routed and created with the help of a natural resource professional that is familiar with the wildlife, habitats, and soils of the region.

Human trails can create erosion, trample plants, compact the soil, bring in invasive species and/or push sensitive native flora away from the trail, decrease bird usage of nearby nesting habitats, decrease nesting success as predators travel the same paths, disrupt stream flows, damage tree roots, and disrupt natural patterns in wildlife life cycles (Chavez 1996; others). Once a trail goes in, it is hard to erase or close.

With mountain bikers, there are a few other concerns that managers must consider

including safe speed of travel on multi-use trails and near wildlife, braided/excessive trails, and stream bank erosion. These occur when bikers seek out rougher more challenging rides where hikers don't dare, despite impacts to the trail and landscape. [See Peggy Dodge email for an example.] I spoke to some of the college-age mountain bikers that attended the recent public meeting. They readily admitted that there are some "bad apples in the group that ruin it for the rest of us and give us a bad reputation because they don't follow the rules and screw stuff up." This is true of all sports, including some unethical hunters that leave a negative impression in the minds of the public.

When too many trails of any kind criss-cross an area, wildlife are stressed as is evident by recent research that measured alert responses, flushing behavior, and flight distances from trails when humans are present (Taylor and Knight 2003). Even 200m off a trail still triggers a response for animals in open habitats. Therefore the "area of influence" is often larger than we believe. Sometimes otherwise suitable habitat is left due to this stress. Reproductive success drops and feeding is constantly interrupted. True, there are some species that may be able to habituate to human presence but a majority do not. Also, directly approaching wildlife is more of a stressor than passive encounters. We cannot be selfish and arrogant and say, "Well that's too bad. This is my play place." We have a responsibility to manage recreational areas to benefit both people and the environment. Sometimes that means keeping ourselves in check.

Its comments from the public like the following that make me cringe. Are we in charge of regulating ethics for individuals or whole clubs? "We don't want to have to go out on non-sanctioned trails on undeveloped plots of land.... So basically you're making legitimate citizens scofflaws, riding illegal trails because we don't have legal trails to ride."-- Bill Camp, TORC/SCORBA, March 2006 public meeting transcript.

One of the other interesting findings of the same study cited above was people's misperceptions on their impact to wildlife. Not to pick on Bill again, but he sums up so many of the comments I have heard from Sig Hutchins, other mountain bikers, and hikers:

"When you get rid of the hunting on this property, the wildlife is coming back, and that's a fact.... All respect to the Corps of Engineers, to the Wildlife Commission. I think they are grossly overstating the impact and the damage that

they think these trails are going to have on the wildlife and on erosion. It's just not going to happen." -- Bill Camp, TORC/SCORBA, March 2006 public meeting transcript. See also Thomas Dorris and Tara Hun-Dorris emails.

True, when hunting pressure decreases, game animals often move back into an area, that is if they have a population to move from and the now hunter-free habitat is suitable. Unfortunately, it all gets back to human presence that is the issue. The 2003 study found that 50% of park recreationalists that were interviewed about their perceived impacts on wildlife thought they were having less of an impact than they really were. They not only did not understand flight behavior away from trails but they also did not understand that it is not acceptable to approach wildlife. Many thought that they weren't having an impact because they were spread out across the park. Each user group "tended to blame other user groups for stress to wildlife rather than holding themselves responsible (Taylor and Knight 2003)." If the public could be educated a bit more, maybe they would understand wildlife's perceived view of us—that of a predator. And of course, don't get me started on dogs (on and off-leash) and wildlife harassment!

If people could police themselves better, we wouldn't have conflict. So now the question becomes how can we improve the trail riding experience for mountain bikers while at the same time providing for the needs of wildlife utilizing the Forest Ridge Park area?

A single mountain bike loop trail can be added to where the Lodge and Retreat would have been. Another could loop around the back side of the disc golf course. I don't see how we can squeeze 20 miles of trails into the area and still keep it from being too cut up. Maybe a total of 10-15 is more realistic with the hopes that other up-and-coming parks will add to this mileage as appropriate for their landscapes. One public commenter at least thanked us for trying to make everyone happy with the trails.

Park officials should not halt conservation work on the property just because it is not longer under Corp or WRC maintenance. They have the responsibility of developing a stewardship plan for the property with clearly defined goals and objectives. Thanks for listening to my thoughts since I will not be there to share this info/data with you all. I trust you will all make good decisions about this park. I'll miss you!

Sincerely,

Anna H. Smith

Urban Wildlife Biologist

Faunal Diversity Section, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

919-210-6040

Yahoo! Mail

[Use Photomail](#) to share photos without annoying attachments.

Forest Ridge Park MASTER PLAN REPORT

APPENDIX C:
PUBLIC MEETING #2, MARCH 3, 2006
DURANT MIDDLE SCHOOL



TRANSCRIPT OF THE MARCH 3RD, 2006 PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT
DURANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED DURING THE TWO WEEK PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD FOLLOWING THE MARCH 3RD PUBLIC MEETING

**Raleigh Parks and Recreations
Forest Ridge Park Public Meeting
March 3, 2006
Durant Elementary School**

F: Female speaker
M: Male speaker
Svoboda: Martha Svoboda [ph]
Fosbury: Hugh Fosbury [ph]
Schilling: Steve Schilling [ph]
Schwab: Julie Schwab [ph]
Colburn: Paul Colburn [ph]
Pilarinos: Patti Pilarinos
Warner: Bill Warner [ph]
Smith: Dan Smith
Clarke: Pat Clarke
Hutchinson: Sig Hutchinson
Forbes: Joseph Forbes
Clarke: Pat Clarke
Norris: Mike Norris [ph]
Camp: Bill Camp
Door: Kris Door [ph]
Steddua: Janet Steddua [ph]
Dorris: John Dorris
Osley: Larry Osley [ph]
Butler: Tom Butler [ph]
Worthington: Carter Worthington
Bender: David Bender
Gibson: Jim Gibson
Beechwood: Barbara Beechwood
Hahn: David Hahn [ph]
Anderson: Dave Anderson

Svoboda: My name is Martha Svoboda. I live at 6329 Mountain Grove Lane in Wake Forest, which is in phase three of Wakefield Estates, which is the subdivision adjacent to the park site. My family first visited the Wakefield Plantation sales office in July, 1998, when it was operated out of a small building adjacent to the historic Wakefield farm. At that time we were made aware of the plans to

develop a park at the end of Old 98—plans under discussion at that time included a full-service marina and lighted ball fields for organized sporting events.

Coming from the congestion of Silicon Valley we were excited about the possibilities of having recreational opportunities so close to our possible new home. Almost a year later in April, 1999, we went under contract on our home on Mountain Grove Lane. We really looked forward to that marina. Later, when phase four of Wakefield Estates opened up, we thought about purchasing one of those lots, but we evaluated the risk and decided to avoid the home sites along Talbot ridge and near Old 98. We just didn't want to take the risk—the chance that those lighted ball fields would still be constructed, so in our mind, the risk of that happening outweighed the potential reward of instead having nature trails and a low-impact park behind our back yard as we will have now.

Although the Corps of Engineers study commissioned by the City of Raleigh, eventually put an end to our dreams of having a marina nearby, we still continue to walk along the old highway bed of Old 98, and my kids, husband and dog swim in the area where the lakeside center is proposed. I am excited that with the park we won't have to worry about the hunters and vagrants that frequent there now.

As a civic-minded person I planned to be on the committee and was selected as an alternate. As such, Vic and Greg invited me to go on the fieldtrip to the site last August. I was in the picture. [LAUGHS] I must say that at first I was skeptical of how the process might work and of the appropriate credentials of those that were appointed to the committee instead of me. But that fieldtrip put an

end to that line of thinking. I found each of them to be passionate and knowledgeable and intensely interested in making this park fit the site and the community. I attended several planning meetings and continued to be impressed with their knowledge and professionalism, their thorough attention to detail and their passion and commitment to the integrity of the park site. I also have to say that as a former PTSA president and as current parliamentarian of the Wakefield High School PTSA and hence an owner of *Robert's Rules of Order*, I found the meetings to be the best lesson I could ever have had in the proper workings of parliamentary procedure.

So in conclusion, I want to commend the committee and the consultants for a job well done and thank them for their sensitivity to the concern of the neighbors, and among other things, the location and number of parking spots, the access from Falls of the Neuse to the southern part of the park and for inclusion of wording in the master plan regarding the green amphitheater that is to be used for educational and small scale events. There is a lot of rumors going around out there. If you look into the details they are probably not true. Our family looks forward to hiking, biking and kayaking in Forest Ridge Park. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Fosbury: Hello, my name is Hugh Fosbury and I live near Martha in Wakefield, 6557 Wake Falls Drive, and I am very impressed with what I see here. Apparently a lot of hard work has gone into this process and I'd like to—in fact, I can't acknowledge the committee members, but could I see a show of hands of who is here for the committee? So we have a nice representation from the committee, so apparently a

lot of work has gone into this and Vic did a nice job of setting it up and the other gentleman, with all the different elements that are going to go into this thing.

I guess the problem I have... But let me first be clear. I'm actually in favor of the park. I think the park is a good thing. In fact, that's what I'd like—I'd like the park. And that is the issue that I have here because if you do some simple math and you go into the numbers and look at the budget, the total of the items that they have listed there are over \$1,750 [ph] and it is a lot of good stuff. I think we could debate for days the value of that, and I think it is a lot of good things.

The question I have is the prioritization of what is going up there. And I would, in fact, like to be able to go walk the walking trails before I'm in a wheelchair. Currently, that is the delay that is going to be there I think. If you look at the numbers we've got \$4 million to spend against that \$17 million. And as I understand it the bond referendum process takes—about every five years another referendum comes up, and I'm led to believe that about \$4 million is all you are going to get—best case scenario. So do the math. You're talking 15 to 20 years, best case scenario, to pay for all these elements. So with that knowledge at hand, I'm thinking to myself, "While I am still alive, what would I like and what would my fellow citizens like to be able to utilize in this park?"

And as you saw on the list, the very first thing, and in fact, as I understand it, the only thing that is going to be paid for in the first series is going to be the retreat center: the adventure programming center. And it looks very nice.

You've seen the picture. It looks like a lovely—I'd love to live there. It is a

gorgeous looking lot, 11,000 square feet. It is going to have an industrial kitchen, meeting rooms—as I understand it is going to be the headquarters for the Adventure program of North Raleigh [ph], so I think it is going to be a home base, if you will, of the programming department. So I'm sure from an office standpoint, that would be a wonderful place to have your office. I know I'd like to have the office there.

But when I'm thinking about it, so you've got—I think it is \$400 million—I'm sorry, \$400,000 for the consultant fees, \$3.6 million for the retreat center. That is \$4 million. That is your bond. What else is left? So my question to the committee is what can we, in this room, outside of a paid for program, whether it is a summer camp or a corporate outing for leadership training or what have you that we've got to pay for, what can we just drive up an use? That is my question because I think we all _____. But what can we use day one and not have to wait 5, 10, 15, 20 years for? Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Just come on up, whoever is next. We don't have to do it exactly in the order.

Schilling: Hi, my name is Steve Schilling. I am the vice president of the Wakefield Barn [ph] LLC, my wife is the president. [LAUGHS] And of course, I've been a horse lover. We've moved out to that area. We roofed that barn in the Summer of 2000. And one of the things that I've observed as I've lived in the area is we have a lot of parks all around. She, in fact, walks over the Falls Damn everyday, and there is a, just four miles up the road, Camp Kanata is a privately funded park—very nice place. They have some of the same adventure elements that are being

prioritized here, and they have some private money that is coming in to do more things there. So they are already up and operating.

They got prepared for an investigative partnership, but at this stage haven't been able to come to any agreement. I'll be happy to introduce anybody on the committee to them if there is an interest after this meeting. That alliance would reduce some of the public spending and maybe our help in some of the prioritization that was discussed earlier, but it hasn't happened yet. It may still happen.

There are many other parks too, although I haven't been to some of them, Blue Jay Point Park, ____ has a lodge and it is utilized but there is a lot of capacity still available—half according to the numbers I've seen. There are camping sites off New Light [ph] Road, and again, haven't been to them, but there are places to camp. The YMCA in Wakefield has climbing walls—rope climbing and lots of, of course, swimming and other things.

All these facilities in the area, I think, give an opportunity for a very hard working committee here to prioritize things in that light. And in doing so, perhaps put up the most important things for the people of Raleigh first and handle that priority and try to partner with other people.

I'd like to make one other comment, and this is from having stood along Falls of the Neuse Road for eight or nine years. I don't do it every day if you drive by, but because the horses are out there I'm frequently aware of it, it is a very, very busy road, and currently it is the only way to get over the river is to go down that hill. The Barn happens to own a house with a trainer across from

Riverside Drive, which is across from the proposed south entrance. If you drive that road often you would know that that would be a not a very good ingress/egress to the south part of that park.

A, it is hilly. It is an old cow trail, as I understand it from the guy who has the Husqvarna store, he used to walk it. But anyhow, there is about 25 to 30 homes back there. I'm speaking as the indirect owner of one of those, and as a result I think someone who is a traffic and safety expert, and maybe not a park planning expert should take a hard look at that. I would recommend just standing out there for a few hours one day. You won't have to do a lot more research, I don't think.

And finally when we did try to save the Barn it was very complicated. And we put an outdoor arena [ph] because you have to have one if you want to have anybody stay in your barn because otherwise it gets very muddy. The Wake County Planning Department ran us through a lot of the hoops regarding the protection of the watershed. I did a little map—it is not very scientific, but they were very concerned about this outdoor arena covering porous ground, and as a result I had to hire a lawyer to basically prove that we were a farm. Because if you are a farmer in this area, no rules apply. So it is odd, but we were able to get the covered arena because we were farmers—we were growing horses.

Anyhow, my math says when you put in 800 parking spots and a hotel, or not—a lodge and a... You do all this, you're going to have a 300 times impact to what I was proposing which was very, very complicated. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Thank you. I do want to get home tonight, so let's really try and keep it to about three minutes. And so if what you have prepared is a little bit longer than that, which is cut out something—especially if it has been previously stated. Thank you. Well, Dan Smith [ph], _____, Patti Pilarinos [ph], Sig Hutchinson, Joseph Forbes, just come up front and wait up front so we can get through this.

Schwab: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to comment. I'm Julie Schwab and I'm a Wake Forest resident. I too live in Wakefield Plantation. I very much support the development of Forest Ridge Park, however I have concerns regarding the affordability of some of the facilities and programs that have been proposed in the master plan as opposed to existing facilities and program options that currently exist.

In the Smith [ph] Group presentation of the review of the preliminary draft master plan, in chapter 4, under goals and objectives, goal six indicated that the committee would encourage recreation initiatives to supplement public facilities. And in chapter 7 under recommendations 13 through 15, it included that there would be collaboration with community agencies, nonprofit groups and athletic groups and collaboration with private corporations and recreational facilities. Therefore, in support of what Mr. Schillings has spoken to, it is difficult to outright dismiss the option of a site like Camp Kanata that might be able to be incorporated in collaboration with the Forest Ridge Park project.

Camp Kanata has 150 acres of sloping hills. It has extensive meeting, lodging and dining facilities, established land and water activities as well as the children's summer camp programs. It would appear that we already have

available right now many of the same facilities and programs that the park's master plan is proposing to develop. From a fiscal perspective with the privately funded nonprofit facility like Camp Kanata, this would also be a very feasible alternative—very attractive from a financial perspective.

Beyond that we have Blue Jay Point ____ Park. Again we have a 234 acre park, there is primarily agricultural land with much of it being second-growth forest land. They've dedicated approximately three acres to open play areas, where again you have hiking and walking trails, you have fishing, picnicking an environmental educational center and a lodge that we are currently told is only utilized approximately 50% of the time.

Finally, collaboration for partnering with the Triangle Area YMCAs should be a consideration. As you know, the YMCAs are the country's oldest nonprofit organizations offering community service programs. Certainly their programs are geared to offer to the community need, and the one on Wakefield Pines Drive has that climbing wall program available.

In summary, there appears to be a strong incentive to further explore the partnering and collaboration possibilities with these facilities. And in groups in view of the potential cost containment merits, while yet meeting the needs of Raleigh citizens. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

Colburn: Hi. Thank you very much. My name is Paul Colburn. I live at 1908 Mountain High Road in Wakefield Estates. And what I'd like to comment here is on a survey that was done in 2002 by the Parks Department in the City of Raleigh.

And in the interest of time I'm not going to go through the whole survey. What I'm going to do is just focus on some of the points and let you make your own conclusions. So when I refer to the survey that is what I'm talking about—this survey that was done in 2002 by the Parks Department.

And I'd like to focus on three areas: first, what the survey does show, second what the survey doesn't show, and finally, where do we go from here. I'm going to summarize this very briefly.

What the survey does show is that the public wants a park with walking trails, biking trails, overlooks and nature areas. That is plain, simple and straight forward, and that was reflected in the survey. What it doesn't show—there is no strong data to support the adventure components in the proposal. So the question I have is how did the adventure park become such a high priority? It is not clear to anyone who reviews the survey in detail how this happened.

The conclusion here is that the survey does not support the adventure park. Second, the current Adventure Park Program has—the use in the City of Raleigh has been flat since 2004 despite the increase in population. And this is based on the own Park Department's statistic. And third, the director of Camp Kanata, who I would consider an expert in this area confirmed that the interest in these types of programs is flat. So finally where do we—where do we go from here?

Based on the survey results, the planning committee has poor or no justification for the proposed park concept and the resulting level of expenditure that is being proposed. And again we'll go back to what Hugh said about the \$4 million and how far does that go?

If this was a business plan and I was walking into a bank and I had this survey as my backup data I don't think I would get dollar one. My recommendations are as follows: first I think we should abandon this adventure park feature, which is not consistent with the needs identified in this survey, but more importantly, the proposal takes the limited funds in the park budget and allocates the spending away from those features that are considered high priority and reallocates those dollars to the Adventure Program. I'm not sure why—which is not supported by the data in this survey.

The Parks Department paid a lot of money for this survey, but for some reason, and I'm curious as to why, the park committee has ignored or extrapolated the data that fit the model with what they think the results should be. I think that the plan needs to be reexamined with clear objectives to make it consistent with the needs of the people of the City of Raleigh, based on the needs that were identified in this 2002 survey. And I think they need to develop a realistic budget allocation to meet these objectives. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Warner: Good evening. My name is Bill Warner. I am a resident of Wakefield at 6516 Wake Falls Drive, and I want a park, my wife wants a park, my kids and grand kids want a park, but what you've seen here and are starting to hear about is all of the scouting people and the little girl with the riding helmet and you professional bike riders may not see those trails for about 20 years. What you'll see is a monument to the Parks Commission with this retreat center, 10,500 square feet costing over \$3 million.

So here we are, a committee was given input from the public. They told them very explicitly what they want: 5,000 people said so. They have \$4 million to spend. What do they do? They turn around and propose \$17 million worth of stuff that they can't afford. They show us a priority list that puts the retreat center at the top so we know there was a process of consensus here. It was the consensus of 11 people who want to do something other than what the public wants to do.

I am so disappointed in this committee I can't see straight because I really want a park. I'll be you everybody in this room wants a park, right?
[APPLAUSE] And you've seen the saga hasn't ended. Federal money, county money, private money and more to come is being spent on parks in this area! Not a single member of this committee has taken the time to figure out how they could coordinate this park proposal with all of the rest of what is going on in North Raleigh. It is as if they live in a world by them—by themselves.

So here is what I suggest we do. We all ask this committee to take their pencils and erasers and a lot of them and go back and redo this plan! And do it in response to what the public has asked for, what they can afford realistically working with \$4 million—it is a zero sum game. And if they did that in coordination with what else is going on in North Raleigh, we would have a park where we could have biking trails, walking trails, overlooks, picnic areas. Guess where the picnic area is on the priority list on their budget? At the bottom! I'll be dead before that happens. As you notice, I'm a little older than most of you. Half

of you will be in your wheelchairs by the time that happens. This kid over here—
sorry, this young lady with the helmet will be a grandmother before that happens.

So I want a park, but I want the park that I thought I voted for, that I spent
time filling out a survey for, and I'd like to be able to walk on it real soon. Thank
you.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Next.

Smith: Hi everybody. My name is Dan Smith. I'm a resident of North Raleigh. My
family and I are avid park users. And I'm also a professional in the outdoor
recreation field. Currently I'm the assistant director for outdoor adventures at
North Carolina State University and I've been there for about seven years. And I
just wanted to convey my support from this program just from what I've seen—
I'm very excited about it, very excited about the planning committee. And I see a
little bit of a different user group and get excited about the adventure element.
That is the field I'm in, so I'm very excited about that. I teach in it and I'm very
passionate about that field.

I see a lot of demand for this, and especially from a University setting.
Our University is opened for students, faculty and staff only. I get calls all the
time, "Can we use your indoor rock climbing wall? We have a leadership group."
A group from Raleigh—boy scout groups all the time call us, "Hey, can we use
your rock wall?" And I have to turn a lot of these groups away.

Also we have a lot of demand for high ropes course. We have a lot of—
you know, a lot of corporations in the area saying, "We'd like to do some

leadership development. Can we use your ropes course?" Currently we don't have a ropes course so we send them to other places. Just from my perspective I see a lot of demand. I see a lot of people calling me for these services, wanting to use our services.

I teach a workshop called local outdoor destinations. We kind of showcase Raleigh and Wake County's parks, what to do. A lot of the faculty and staff, they want to know, one is where they can take a group for camping, where they can also—where they can go canoe and kayak and they are very excited about the adventure element.

So from my perspective I just see a big demand. I see it is a great resource. It is super cutting edge for our Raleigh Parks and Recreation Program. I think it would bring a lot of people and interest to Raleigh and up into this area to use those. So just from my perspective, I'm really excited about the park as when I heard about it. I think there are going to be a lot of like-minded people that are interested in adventure recreation that could really get a lot of use out of the park. So from my perspective I think it is a great idea and I think there is great work, and I think the committee has done a great job. So thanks.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Okay. I did, I did. I'm just trying to figure out where I left off. Pat Clarke, Judy Kendall, Mike Norris, Stratton Parr and Bill Camp [ph]. What? Yeah. These are just the people to get in line for the next group. ____ you are next.

Patti Pilarinos: I am a member of the Wake County Public Schools 9th Grade Transition

Committee. As part of the Wake County Public Schools goals for 2008 and a

county-wide effort to increase and to help incoming freshmen obtain the confidence building, leadership skills that ensure their high school success, we established 8th grade academies.

As part of this program, last spring I attempted to secure the services of Raleigh Parks and Rec's Adventure Program. Specifically we were interested in obtaining and having access to the ropes courses. Unfortunately, because of the explosive growth at the Wake County Schools, all of our playing fields are now replaced by trailers and modules. We could not have a ropes course at the actual school site, and as a result did not have it. Having access to the ropes and Adventure Program at Forest Ridge as well as the open fields would be a tremendous opportunity for the 2,600 students at Wakefield High School, the 2,400 students at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School and the planned 2,000 students at Heritage High School.

Outdoor educational facilities would be a positive contribution to all of Wake Field, Wake Forest and Heritage School sites. Presently the schools do use Blue Jay Point, but again, the explosive growth has made it nearly impossible when you are trying to schedule 10 kindergarten classes or 8 5th grade classes coming just from Wake Field Elementary. Facilities such as the proposed Forest Ridge are desperately needed in this region.

Finally, during the past four years I have also served as a board member for the Wakefield Women's Club. It is a social club that services 250 women in the North Raleigh area. Every board member knows the challenges we have faced in trying to schedule craft classes, dance lessons, speaker programs,

kayaking lessons or to organizing walking and hiking programs, all hampered by the lack of cost-effective public meeting spaces. The proposed lodge would serve the needs of our club, the Wake Field Home Owner's Association and other local, civic and social group that have no place to meet that doesn't require a \$500 to 1,000 room rental fee.

On a personal level, I moved here expecting there to be a park. At that time it was described as a full service marina with power boating, a full service restaurant and playground space. I think the proposed Forest Ridge Park far better serves the community while preserving the natural beauty of the area. Thank you for the City of Raleigh for designating the funds and to the Parks Committee for their time spent in designing a well-planned public space.

[APPLAUSE]

Hutchinson: Hi. I'm Sig Hutchinson and I live at 2704 Snowy Meadow Court in Raleigh, 27614. I am president of the North Raleigh Mountain Biking Association, which is part of TORC, which is Triangle Off Road Cyclists, and I'm also on that board. And first I want to thank the City of Raleigh and the City Council for their vision, and also the Corps of Engineers for their vision in acquiring the 600 acres to use for [ph] the public. So we are very pleased that this resource is out there for us to use.

But I've got to say to the committee, I mean the plan that you came up with from a mountain biking perspective looks like you guys have designed this thing in a hermetically sealed container, I mean, like in a black hole where no light or air escapes. Because if you look at this, this is 600 acres—600 acres!

That is a lot of land. And if you look at the standards from the IMBA, the International Mountain Biking Association, they suggest that for every 30 acres of land you can put a mile of trail. That is 20 miles of trails that could be on this land without impacting the land at all, and you've got eight, eight acres of land, eight miles of land. Is eight miles of land—?

[END TAPE 1 SIDE A]

[BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B]

Hutchinson: —cross section, big cross section of just one the smaller sections of this land, and if you look at the long cross section and then you look at the mountain bike trail, which was just miniscule, you can see that it was just nothing compared to this scale.

So what I'm asking for is to open up to serve the public good and totally, totally plan, totally utilize it for some other plan, give us at least 15 miles of mountain bike trail, preferably 20 miles of mountain bike trail, but serve public and use this land. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

Forbes: And you we thank you for your investment of time in listening to the public tonight. My name is Joseph Forbes and I'm a Wake County resident at 1820 Oaks Court. My property and primary residence is directly adjacent to the Falls Lake corps management area being considered by the Forestry Department.

Having looked at the master plan posted on the Raleigh Parks and Recreation website, I have several questions, that I request formal response in order to ascertain my support or opposition to the proposed project. My general

observation is the project seems extremely ambitious for the City of Raleigh given the proximity of other parks, the proximity of under-developed land, the parties of Wake County, the budget allocated for the project, and quite the honestly the disrepair of other public parks.

In the construction of the homes near the Falls Lake reservoir, extreme care was taken to avoid disturbing natural issues near the streams, embankments and other depositories within their natural 100 year food plane. My first question is has the City of Raleigh conducted their Phase One [ph] environmental study to check for the presence of endangered flora and plant species contained within this property. The website plan points to the lack of evidence of endangered animals as far as the planning, but no mentioned of endangered plant species was found in my research nor was there a mention of environmental impact status.

We have seen evidence of foxes, hawks, woodchucks, beavers, raccoons, immense populations than the previous four years. Has the city and its consultants published a report describing the impact the park's development will have on the populations of endangered species? Has any consideration been given to the safety of future commuters utilizing Old Highway 98, given the eventual displacement of natural habitat for those animals? Has there been any valuation of pollution caused by the removal of land on the peninsula in addition to run off and discharge expected by the construction of hundreds of parking spaces into the lake [ph]? It is my understanding that a marina was once proposed to the same area and was defeated due to the concern about additional boat pollution on lake levels.

Whose responsibility is the repair and maintenance of the extension of Old Highway 98 to the park peninsula? In the budget I don't see a line item for road construction, and I'm not aware of Wake County's budget including a line item for new roads construction and improvement along Old Highway 98. Having hiked the road to the peninsula, it would seem irresponsible to proceed with the project without first having this information resolved and the budget for the road included in the project.

What is the justification for the numerous permanent structures within the facility? By definition by Webster, a park is an area maintained in its natural as public property. In looking at the master plan over at 18,000 square feet of structures are planned. Given the limited budget, would it not make sense to crawl, walk, then run in the plan, meaning first construct—first rate trails and greenways, boat launches, and overlooks? Bathrooms is the first phase. It is overreaching this jest that all the park's goals can be met with a limited budget. With so many unknowns, having a chance to let the public and the local community assess the contributions of the greenways focus park [ph] is a much more efficient use of tax payer money.

Finally, the recent land grant to the late Anne Louise Wilkinson, does it continue to make sense to invest limited tax payer dollars in an ambitious site with so many unanswered questions when a 155 acre park site three miles to the south, closer to Raleigh—and I've attached the math in the letter—is available and not controversial. Falls of the Neuse Road, north of Ravens Ridge, is ill-

equipped given the still unimproved Falls River Bridge and two lane roads to handle the additional traffic.

Large parking would bring—the Wilkinson property site adjoining the Falls Lake is near already the four lane extension of Falls River and Ravens Ridge. Since the property is near the Wake County landfill, and with a processing plant in the deed restrictions park use only, does it not make sense to plan some of the more esoteric portions of the plan, Frisbee golf, amphitheaters, adventure cities, etc., on a property where this was the desire of the now deceased owner.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Next.

Clarke: My name is Pat Clarke. I live at 2905 Mountain Ash Court in the Stafford Hall section of Wakefield.

First, let me thank all of you on the planning board and the Parks Department for all the work that you have already done in Forest Ridge Park. The master plan at the park is amazing and we are looking forward to it becoming a reality.

At a school reassignment meeting last night, a gentleman got up said that he was the lobbyist responsible for increasing the length of P.E. time. Elementary School would now be required to have for 30 minutes. He explained that this is an effort to combat childhood obesity and juvenile diabetes, which are now threatening to become epidemics. Although it's difficult to quantify at this point, I can only imagine how far a beautiful 600 acre park with all the wonderful adventure activities it has to offer will go to fight the same battle.

When my two sons, now 10 and 14, were younger, we spent many afternoons and weekends hiking or picnicking at Blue Jay Park or bike riding and boating at Shelly Lake. The background Blue Jay Park short hiking trails, and loading and unloading bikes, and traveling back and forth the Shelly Park, taking an hour and a half at least, and that's about burning a single extra calorie. And sadly, they're pretty much beyond the point of thinking that spending an afternoon biking around a three mile lake with their mom is an ideal outing.

Both of my sons are Boy Scouts, and through Scouts they have learned an even greater love of the outdoors than they ever could have learned from their city-raised parents. An integral part of the Scouting program is the "Leave No Trace" philosophy and a profound respect for the environment. The philosophy of scouting is to help our children grow into responsible, confident adults by learning outdoor activities and making these activities a part of their lives forever.

You can imagine my delight when my 14 year old son told me that he would much prefer sleeping in a hammock, under a tarp, with the Scouts than playing video games with some of his other friends. I only hope that presents such as these stay with him for a lifetime. In order for all of us to get our children and ourselves away from the TV, the video games, and the computers, and into the fresh air, we need a place to go. That place is Forest Ridge Park.

When I husband first considered relocation seven years ago, we could have gone anywhere. We chose the Triangle for its climate, low cost of living, and proximity to the oceans and mountains. We narrowed our search to North

Raleigh and Wakefield for the family friendly atmosphere, community schools, and the promise of Forest Ridge Park in our backyard.

[APPLAUSE]

F: The next person will come up, and would the following come up and take a seat in the front to get ready to speak: John Dorris, Janet Debbie [ph], Chris Door [ph]—I'm sorry—Teesha [ph] McKinley, and Larry Oxley [ph].

Norris: Hello, my name is Mike Norris [ph], 4716 Triple Creek Dr. I just moved this past weekend. I am president of the Raleigh area disc league and we are excited about the potential for a disc golf course in this area. Many of you may or may not know about disc golf, but disc golf is really a sport that anybody can play, from age two to 92. We welcome anybody out. It's a very cheap, economic sport. You can get discs for less than \$10.00 and all you really need is one disc to play.

The main part of a disc golf course is we can really design a disc golf course into any under utilized area of the park. We really like the trees and the hills, areas that can't be used by other aspects that one might expect in a park. We really look forward to the trees as obstacles and use natural fairways to put our discs down the fairway to the basket.

We are a very low impact, environmentally course. We can generally install a course into a park in about a week's time. The cost for a disc golf environmental aspect would be about \$5,400.00 with 18 baskets; we can come to about 90 people at once. So if only 90 people play a course in a course in a given week for every week out of the year, we're talking a \$1.50 a person over the aspect of a year. So it's a very low cost installation that we can do.

Over the past couple years, after 22 past years we've got a proven track record with the Raleigh Parks and Rec. Department of volunteerism in the park. We continually improve the parks, install benches at our courses, pick up litter, numerous other things. We even had a Fred Fletcher award that is on the board of the Raleigh area disc league. Since January 2005, we have raised over \$3,000.00 for the food bank of North Carolina through different events and we have over 700 different golfers play and organize events in Raleigh in the past year.

So I guess in conclusion we really would like to get a disc golf course in this area and it's very low impact, and we look forward to working with the city and of course to golf.

[APPLAUSE]

Camp: Hello there. My name is Bill Camp. I'm the president of Triangle Off-Road Cyclists. We are the local chapter of the SORBA, which is the Southern Off Road Bicycling Association. It is a 501C3, nonprofit organization in the southeast that is dedicated to advocating building and maintaining mountain bike trails. We're kind of what they're talking about when they talk about nonprofits working with the city to deflate cost.

Basically there's very little at building mountain bike trails. There will be some signage maybe, maybe a few bridges, but if the mountain bikers in here could raise your hand. This is who's going to build it for you!

[APPLAUSE]

Camp: But I want to talk a little bit about mountain biking in Raleigh. First of all, the City of Raleigh has no park that has dedicated mountain bike trails. There are a

couple of places like Lake Johnson where there is a mile or so of trail that they don't explicitly forbid us from riding. But if you listened to Sig [ph], you know that a mile is not much of a ride. It takes four or five miles of mountain bike trail to equal about one good hiking mile. So at this point the City of Raleigh is not under serving the mountain bikers that live here. We are totally un-served. As a matter of fact this county has about three quarters of a million people in it and there's less than 40 miles of legal mountain bike trail in the county, and none of it's in the city. That would equate to about 10 miles of hiking trail for hikers. Now there's way more than that just in Umstead Park for hikers, because you can imagine the upright war you would hear if there were not hiking trails.

In this needs assessment survey that the city did, they found that 14% of the people had mountain biked at least once in the previous 12 months. That extrapolates to over 40,000 citizens in the City of Raleigh that are un-served by the City of Raleigh. So we applaud the six and a half miles of trail that are in this park. There is that mile and a half of shared use trail, but I'm going to have to join Sig [ph] in saying, you're wasting a lot of land out there. You're taking the two aspects. The 18—to give you an idea, to further his thought, at 18 inches wide, eight and a half miles of trails is one and a half acres. That's how much footprint in that almost 600 acres you're talking about. So if we double that trail you're talking about three acres out of 586. All respect to the Corps of Engineers, to the Wildlife Commission. I think they are grossly overstating the impact and the damage that they think these trails are going to have on the wildlife and on erosion. It's just not going to happen.

Like Sig [ph] says, you go to Lake Crabtree, you go to Harris Lake Park, you go out to Beaver Dam Park, and you're in danger of having collisions with the wildlife out there, there's so much there. You go to New Light. I've been riding New Light for four and a half years. I have yet to see the first deer. You hardly see any songbirds. You see no other game. You don't even see squirrels out there. When you get rid of the hunting on this property, the wildlife is coming back, and that's a fact. And I've been in North Carolina, I grew up out in Chatham County three miles from the closest paved roads, so I know a little something. I don't have any scientific degrees, but I know a little something about wildlife, riding and walking the woods. So I do disagree to some degree. I easily think that we can double the mileage here without any significant impact on erosion or wildlife.

To give you a feel for how this compares to other parks, Lake Crabtree Park in Morrisville, which is a little bit more of a metro park but it's still in a green space, is 240 acres. It has about eight and a half miles of mountain bike trail and I think it's somewhere in the vicinity of five miles of hiking trail. That's more than is in this 586 acre plan. I think we can squeeze in a few more miles.

Another thing that happens with all of these mountain bikers, you look around the room, we're not a bunch of teenage kids that also have a skateboard and we're drinking Mountain Dew and jumping mountains—[LAUGHTER]—I'm a small business owner. There are doctors and lawyers in this room, engineers, software people. We're just normal people like everybody else. We just choose to do our recreation in the woods, riding our bikes, enjoying nature,

having fun with our friends. We don't want ball fields. We don't want soccer fields. We want a place to ride our bikes that's legal. We don't want to have to go out on non-sanctioned trails on undeveloped plots of land that are dropping like flies. We've lost several of those trails.

So basically you're making legitimate citizens scofflaws, riding illegal trails because we don't have legal trails to ride. You've got three quarters of a million people trying to ride less than 40 miles trail. Please give us more trail here in Park Ridge Park. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Door: Wow. I hate to come after the mountain bikers. I also have a mountain bike. I'm Kris Door [ph]. I live in Stafford Hall in Wakefield Plantation, and like many people have expressed, I have also lived here for seven years and have followed the park history.

I came tonight with questions and I feel like I'm very happy that many of them have been answered by the presentation tonight and many apprehensions I have, have been quelled by the committee and by a lot of the people expressing their ideas. I do hope—on that note, without adding much else, my only hope is that it doesn't take so long. I'm concerned about some of the conflicts tonight and I hope that doesn't slow things down. I hope—if I have a recommendation it would for the committee to get together a Phase I that is simple enough that can go forward and perhaps a lot of the other issues can be hammered out in the future, but not wait until all of them are hammered out because I, too, have arthritis and I've been waiting awhile. I like to get out there. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

M: Okay. Hopefully I'm at the right place on the schedule here. John Butler, Carter Worthington, Jim Gibson, Dave Bender, Laura Quinn, if you could come down front awhile.

Steddua: My name is Janet Steddua and I live in Raleigh. My comments concern Forest Ridge Park South, specifically the overlook area. I think it's actually a quite perilous place. I know that on the plan it's supposed to be somewhat protected, but it's on a high point on Corps land. I'm not speaking for the Corps, but I know that they try to keep people away from that area. Additionally, the trail goes right by Falls Community Cemetery, which is actually not just the cemetery. It's a reinterment site from the Falls Lake project. It's culturally sensitive, and I would ask that the overlook and the trails by the cemetery be stricken from the plan.

[APPLAUSE]

Dorris: Hi. My name is John Dorris. I live at 1579 Highway 96 East. I'm a mountain biker. I'm going to keep this short.

After reading the mission statement, I thought the one activity that fit with their description and their mission statement was mountain biking. It's a great activity. It's low impact. It's something we can do in this park if we want to. And I know the committee voted 11 to zero to reduce the trail. I don't know why they did that or what reasons they used, but I know there's a lot of people in this room that would vote the other way, and I hope they would listen to us. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Osley: Hi. My name is Larry Osley. I am president of the Carolina Canoe Club, a nonprofit organization of 1000 plus members, about 150 of which are residents of Raleigh. We're an organization that's dedicated to the enjoyment of paddle sports through participation, education, and stewardship of our water resources.

On behalf of the membership, I'm here to support the Forest Ridge Project on our beliefs that the park will be a long term positive for water quality protection. We'll provide enhanced opportunity for the enjoyment of an education about water sports, and we'll provide crossover activities of interest to many of our members.

We encourage every opportunity you may have to incorporate plans for this park with the whitewater park that has been discussed below Falls Dam as the synergy to both projects. We've submitted written comments to you, to this effect and hope you will consider. Thank you for your time.

[APPLAUSE]

Butler: My name is John Butler. I live at 2629 Ridge Rail Court. I'm very much in favor of this park, and as a mountain biker in particular, I'm very much in favor of the great, great opportunity.

I moved to Raleigh about nine years ago, North Raleigh, on a warm sunny, Saturday day. And much to the chagrin of my wife, that very day I went down to the local bike shop because I knew they wouldn't be open the next day, and said, "Where are the trails?", unbelievable. I had moved from Hickory, North Carolina. They have two city mountain bike trails very well maintained—this was nine years ago—with a greenway that connects them.

Fast forward nine years. Hickory is still two. Raleigh is zero.

Fortunately, we have an opportunity here today. You've heard loud and clear, and by show of hands you've seen the volunteers that are in this room. These trails, the mountain bike trails that we're asking for, we're asking for more. Well, they're not going to cost you anymore. This is a low cost, a no cost effort. They're volunteering sweat equity hours to build the trails that are in existence today. So I urge you as committee members when you revisit the comments that are made tonight. From a budgetary perspective, this will cost you nothing more. It's only to gain the approval and appreciation of your voters, your constituents, your North Raleigh residents. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

Worthington: My name is Carter Worthington. I live at 2422 Castle Park Drive in Apex. I'm also one of the North Carolina State Representatives for International Mountain Biking Association, IMBA. So I'm here to, in fact, clean up behind Sig [ph] and Bill. That's kind of tough. Sig can get a lot in just a few minutes.

The first thing is, to the committee, thank you so much. We got something on the map. I guess coming and looking at 586 acres, when I look at where the trails are it's great, but damn! There's really—I have a six year old daughter, and I'm sure that that eight miles would probably—she wouldn't want to do but maybe two laps there. Her old man is 44, kind of half crippled, but you know, 15 to 20 miles is a day. That's a day of riding. That's a destination. And to me, the City of Raleigh—it seems like you need this destination.

One of the meetings I attended, one of the members, I believe, said, “You know sometimes you go to a golf course, and if they only have nine holes you have to play the same nine wholes twice.” I was a PGA golf professional for 12 years. The City of Raleigh deserves an 18 hole golf course. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

Bender: I’ll be brief. My name is David Bender. I’m a North Raleigh resident. I’m an avid mountain biker and road rider, but during the day I’m a planning program manager for the division of bicycle pedestrian transportation at NCDOT.

We’ve got six million dollars we are budgeted annually to distribute for the development of bike pad facilities in 14 highway divisions in 100 counties across a very vast area. Those facilities are already at capacity. An example is in Durham, American Tobacco Trail. I’m sure many of you have seen that. Any of you commute that in the morning will see that it’s congested already and it’s only a couple of years old. These facilities are already operating at a capacity and the demand for expanding those facilities is high.

This project that you’re doing here for mountain bike facilities, and I’m speaking specifically for mountain bike trails. This project is a tremendous opportunity to help meet this rising demand for bicycle facilities and I encourage the planning board and this committee to maximize the total amount of mountain bike trail at this park and for the future. That’s it. Thanks.

[APPLAUSE]

Gibson: My name is Jim Gibson and I live at 1808 Shady Hill Lane in Wake Forest, and I'm not a biker, but after tonight I wish I were a biker. I think I'm going to take it up.

I appreciate the work of the committee and I think there has been a lot of fine efforts put in this plan and I support the park, but I support the portions of the park that are low impact and low cost and I disagree wholeheartedly with those aspects of the plan that I think are frivolous or have significant environmental impacts, and from my standpoint, waste financial resources. I think that we talk a lot about cost and millions that will go into this and the adventure aspects of this park, but I think what we also don't talk about is the millions more that will be spent to operate and maintain it, and over its lifetime I think it will be quite candidly a white elephant.

So my view is what we heard tonight, is the overwhelming preference of people that spoke here tonight, was low impact, high usage trails, overlooks, picnic tables, but that's it. Cut out the frivolous aspects of it and go with the parts of this plan that the people want.

[APPLAUSE]

F: I thought we had called Laura Quinn. Did she speak? She gave up I guess. Dean Collis, Evelyn Cobs, Dave Anderson, is there anyone else that would like to speak? Well, there we go. Is this Dave? You're up.

Beechwood: My name is Barbara Beechwood and I am a Durham resident, but I often—I'm also a part time employee of the Parks Department and Adventure Program, and

what I've seen over the last few years is a steady and consistent demand for
Adventure Programs—

[END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B]

[BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE A]

Beechwood: —with the pools. We have rowing sections for kayaks. There are various pools
around the Triangle Area and they are packed and they are getting more and more
crowding each year.

This is a facility—I'm speaking specifically to the adventure portion
because it hasn't been in the last hour for very much—but this is a facility that's
very much needed, and I don't think you see it because it's kind of riding under
the radar, but when a facility like this starts up it's going to draw people, not only
from all over Raleigh, but from all over this area. It's going to be very heavily
used.

Right now the facilities working out at Durant Park a lot of the times, or
right out the office on Wade Avenue, it's—[INAUDIBLE]—you know, it's been
jammed in those areas for years, you know, and we make do. I mean they run a
fabulous program, but we need a safe, new building. And I find a real specific
design. The design is a beautiful design and thank you for supporting it.

[APPLAUSE]

Hahn: Hi. My name is David Hahn [ph] of 1425 Freshwater Court behind the
community [ph] up on Falls.

I only have two basic comments here. One is I'm not sure that the
emphasis that has been placed for group activities. Most of those which seem to

be kind of, sort of around the business community are justified. I'm not sure that I really want to increase traffic from non-residents, shall we say, put into this area.

And as a final comment—which I'm not sure how much the mountain bikers would approve—sharing some of these trails with the horses, but especially down on the south side and maybe up to the top. I'd like to see some horse trails, not because I'm a horse person, but there seems to be existing horse land and horse owners up in that area, and I think having trails will continue that and keep this area in a more, shall we say rural community, which is what I truly want.

Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

Anderson: Hello. My name is Dave Anderson and I live at 1209 Anora [ph] Drive in Apex, and I want a park. My kids want a park. My kids would love to place to ride their mountain bikes, a base for activities, keep them off the road. I don't have to worry about cars. I want to commend the committee and the Parks and Recs Department for recognizing the need for—first of all and most importantly—for planning this park, and also for recognizing the legitimate need for mountain biking.

Most of my points have already been made so I'll be very distinct. We talked about budget problems. We talked about a very big supply and demand issue we have, and we've got a very large number bicyclists and mountain bikers in the community. They would love more places to ride and more legal places to ride. You've got an army [ph] of people who would love nothing more than to

tell them, “Go build a trail.” We’ll build the trail. We’ll maintain the trail.

We’ve got a proven track record in doing that. Thank you for your time.

[APPLAUSE]

F: Is there anyone else that wanted to speak tonight? I wanted to thank everyone that did come up to speak. I want to thank everyone who came and listened and paid attention to what George had to say. I think we got a lot of information tonight and we can’t thank you enough for input. We’ll meet again, and fortunately we have a transcript and we’ll be over to go over it and see what was said and we thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

[END OF RECORDING]

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[TAPE 2, SIDE B and BOTH SIDES OF TAPE 3 ARE BLANK]

From: [Frost, Paula M.](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Master Plan
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 6:35:22 AM
Attachments:

I attended the public meeting last night at Durant Road Middle School. After Listening to Haden Stanziale I was wondering where is all of this money going to come from to build this vision? Secondly I would have to say that I agree with the majority of speakers last night and I would like to be able to enjoy this park in my lifetime.

I am also an avid mountain bike rider and would like to say that "if you/ we build it they will come". Bike riders will flock to this park for well laid- lengthy trails . I currently live in Holly Springs and would be more than willing to drive the 1 hour it would take me to get to Forest Ridge Park, but only if there is an increase in trail mileage.

Most people live within a 15 minute radius of some trail system and can easily get in a ride over 7 miles, so once again there is a need to increase the miles for the biking trail system or people just won't come.

I also see on the web page under the Budget and summary cost estimates that the Single track trails are the only item that has a cost of \$0.00. Wow! what a deal. Start here, there would be more than enough volunteers to get these trails up and running in no time and people could start to enjoy Forest Ridge Park right away.

It appeared to me last night that the people gathered there clearly showed that they would like the committee to re-visit the plan for the priorities of Forest Ridge Park. Please listen to the community and it's hard working citizens and make this park happen sooner rather than later.

Thank You,

Paula Frost
117 Braxberry Way
Holly Springs, NC 27540

From: [Dodge, Peggy S.](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [Sig Hutchinson;](#) [Bill Camp;](#)
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 8:54:15 AM
Attachments:

Based on the information provided in last night's meeting I'd like to express my desire for more single track mountain biking trails. The mountain biking community is very under-served. This project is just another example of that. Of almost 600 acres of land available for use, the park's plan provides less than 8 miles of single track. The remaining amount is considered multi use. This is not satisfactory. I would like the committee to consider 3 or more times that amount of single track.

Mountain bikers long for the topography that is not desirable to the rest of the park. The additional trails could be linked via greenway and multi use to those areas that could easily serve as much as 8 miles or more in each area for mountain biking use. Please give the community a better mountain biking trail system than what is proposed.

The trail system is the least costly and the trails are generally built and maintained through volunteers. For this reason alone, the mountain bike trail system should be one of the first considerations of the project so that the surrounding community can begin use of the new park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peggy-Sue Dodge
Girlz Riding In Dirt
www.girlzridingindirt.com

From: [TheManSells On NC.RR.COM](http://TheManSellsOnNC.RR.COM)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 9:20:29 AM
Attachments:

We live in Wakefield and certainly enjoy the area. What a wonderful addition a park would be, not only for us but for the surrounding area. To be able to take family and friends for picnics, games and generally enjoying our area is what this state is all about. Please push forward with the plans, we are looking forward to it...

Joe and Jane Mansell
Wakefield Residents

From: [Mike Allingham](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Please increase bike trail milage in Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 10:53:06 AM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing first to thank all who have been instrumental in gaining access to and organizing the Forest Ridge Park. I think this is an incredible opportunity to provide the citizens of Raleigh and the surrounding area with access to outdoor recreation. As a physician in training, I have been appalled by the prevalence of obesity in my patients; obesity in young people is particularly disturbing. I will not go into the details of all the health risks associated with being overweight, but suffice it to say that they are numerous and grave. Exercise is one of the key components in fighting obesity and, weight loss aside, has health benefits that range from improved sleep patterns to enhanced immunity. In my opinion it is of the utmost importance that our towns and cities provide locations for outdoor recreation. This is a classic case of "if you build it, they will come."

My passion is riding mountain bikes. It is a low impact, aerobic form of exercise that is appropriate for people of all ages and abilities. Additionally, it fosters an appreciation for the outdoors, and nature.

As it stands now, there are 6.5 miles of dedicated mountain bike trails in the park plan. In terms of exercise and entertainment value, this is roughly equivalent to 1.5 miles of hiking trail which, while far better than nothing, is inadequate to meet the needs of most riders. The International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), which is the authority on trail building and maintenance, suggests that 30 acres of land can accommodate 1 mile of appropriately constructed trail with no negative environmental impact. By these standards, that would allow 15 to 20 miles of trails on the nearly 600 acres of Forest Ridge Park. Mileage of this calibre would make Forest Ridge Park a true biking destination. It would also increase the total mileage in Wake county by 50%, and would be the first legal trail in the city

limits. To give an idea of the demand for bike trails, the City of Raleigh needs analysis survey for this park extrapolates to approximately forty-five thousand residents that ride a mountain bike at least once a year.

Finally, in light of the budgetary considerations for this park, bike trails make perfect sense. The Triangle Off Road Cyclists (TORC) have a large (over 100 members) volunteer base that can build trails at essentially no cost to the City. We have a proven record of building sustainable, low impact trails, and of maintaining them. To me, this is a no brainer. The people of Raleigh need locations for exercise and recreation. Trails are a great way to accomplish both of these goals. There is a demonstrated demand for these trails, which is essentially unmet at this time. TORC can build and maintain said trails at minimal cost to the City. My take home message: I cannot stress enough the need for increased mileage in the plan for Forest Ridge Park.

Thanks very much,
Michael Allingham
MD/PhD 5
701A N. Greensboro St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

--

God made dirt, so dirt don't hurt.

From: [Joe Forbes Jr.](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Comments to Forest Ridge Master Plan
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 11:07:09 AM
Attachments: [Forrest Ridge Public Comments.doc](#)
[Forest Ridge Park.ppt](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

These comments were delivered in writing last evening at the public hearing; however, per your request, I am also attaching these in soft copy for your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Forbes, Jr.
1820 Oatlands Court
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-562-8326

<<Forrest Ridge Public Comments.doc>> <<Forest Ridge Park.ppt>>

March 2, 2006

Forest Ridge Planning Committee
C/O Mr. Victor Lebsock
222 West Hargett Street; Suite 608
Raleigh, NC 27601

RE: Public Comments on Proposed Forest Ridge Park

Transmittal by hand and US Mail

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a Wake County resident whose address is 1820 Oatlands Court, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (Real Estate ID 0248581). My property and primary residence is directly adjacent to the Falls Lake Corps Management area being considered for the Forest Ridge Park Project.

Having looked at the master plans posted on the Raleigh Parks and Recreation website, I have several questions that I request a formal response in order to ascertain my support or opposition to the proposed project.

A general observation is the project seems extremely ambitious for the City of Raleigh given the proximity to other parks, the proximity of other undeveloped parklands, the priorities of Wake County, and the budget allocated for the project.

In researching the history of the land use with the US Army Corps of Engineers, representatives of the Corps have indicated to me that the land proposed, while owned by the Corps, is leased to the State of North Carolina and managed by Wake County. The master plan for the lake designated the property, at the construction of the Falls Dam, as future recreational property, but did not designate a process or restrictions on this development. A search on the Army Corps of Engineers website and discussions with their staff have not revealed a public process to comment on the disposition of this property or whether this property was available to lease to private entities in partnership with the State of North Carolina. Has there been a public comment period or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Federal Register that would consider other uses for the property besides the City of Raleigh and Wake County? Does the City of Raleigh have Eminent Domain privileges with this Federal Property? If so, could the City Attorney provide me with the Code of Federal Regulations pertaining to the master plan of the Falls Lake that would disallow private entities to submit proposals for the property for public consideration and a public comment period?

In the construction of the homes near the Falls Lake Reservoir, extreme care was taken to avoid disturbing natural areas near the streams, embankments and other topographies within the natural 100-year flood plane. Has the City of Raleigh conducted their own Phase 1 Environmental Study to check for the presence of endangered flora and plant

species contained within this property? The website plans point to the lack of evidence of endangered animals as part of the planning, but no mention of endangered plant species was found in my research nor was there a mention of an environmental impact study. We have seen evidence of foxes, hawks, woodchucks, beavers, raccoons, immense populations of deer in the previous four years. Has the City and its consultants published a report describing the impact the park's development will have on the populations of native species? Has any consideration been given to the safety of future commuters utilizing Old Hwy 98 given the eventual displacement of natural habitat for these animals? Has there been an evaluation of pollution caused by the removal of land on the peninsula and the additional run-off and discharge expected by the construction of hundreds of parking spaces into the lake? It is my understanding that a marina was once proposed for this same area and was defeated due to the concern about additional boat pollution on the lake levels.

Whose responsibility is the repair and maintenance of the extension of Old Hwy 98 to the park peninsula? In the budget, I don't see a line item for road construction and I am not aware of Wake County's budget including a line item for new road construction and improvements along Old Hwy 98. Having hiked the road to the peninsula, it would seem irresponsible to proceed with the project without having this information resolved and the budget for the road included in the project.

What is the justification of the numerous permanent structures within the facility? By definition, a park is "an area maintained in its natural state as a public property." In looking at the master plan, over 18,000 square feet of structures are planned. Given the limited budget, would it not make sense to "crawl, walk, run" in the plan, meaning first construct first rate trails and greenways, boat launches and overlooks, and bathrooms as a first phase? It is overreaching to suggest that all of the park's goals can be met with the limited budget. With so many unknowns, having a chance to let the public and the local community assess the contributions of a greenway focused park is a much more efficient use of taxpayer monies.

Finally, given the recent land grant of the late Dr Annie Louise Wilkerson, does it continue to make sense to invest limited tax payer dollars in an ambitious site, with many unanswered questions, when a 155 acre park site, 3 miles closer to Raleigh (see the attached map) is available and is not controversial. Falls of the Neuse Road north of Raven's Ridge is ill equipped, given the still un-improved Falls River Bridge and two lane roads to handle the additional traffic a large park would bring. The Wilkerson property sits adjoining the Falls Lake, and is near the already four-lane expansion of Falls of the Neuse Road at Raven's Ridge. Since the property is near the Wake County Landfill and Water processing plant, and is deed restricted for park use, does it not make sense to plan some of the more esoteric portions of the plan (Frisbee golf, Amphitheatre, Adventure Center etc.) on a property where this was the desire of the now deceased owner? This would also allow the allocation of funds for Forest Ridge to be for well thought out, low impact greenways, that would incorporate features such as accommodations for Equestrian activities native to the area.

I look forward to your responses to my questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Forbes, Jr.
Homeowner

Copy to: Honorable Mayor Charles Meeker
Wake County Board of Commissioners
Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr. Esq., Sanford Holshouser, LLP

Aerial View of Annie Louise Wilkerson Park Land & Distance to Forest Ridge

Google Local [Web](#) [Images](#) [Groups](#) [News](#) [Froogle](#) [Local](#) [more »](#)

11408 RAVEN RIDGE RD Raleigh NC

e.g., "hotels near lax" or "10 market st, san francisco"

Proposed Forest Ridge Park

[Search the map](#)
[Find businesses](#)
[Get Directions](#)

Local [Print](#) [Email](#) [Link to this page](#)

Map Satellite Hybrid

+/- 3.0 Miles

Annie Louise Wilkerson Park Land

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The image is a screenshot of a Google Local map interface. At the top, the Google Local logo is on the left, and navigation links (Web, Images, Groups, News, Froogle, Local, more) are in the center. Below the logo is a search bar containing '11408 RAVEN RIDGE RD Raleigh NC' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search bar is a section titled 'Proposed Forest Ridge Park' with links for 'Search the map', 'Find businesses', and 'Get Directions'. Below the search bar is a 'Local' tab and links for 'Print', 'Email', and 'Link to this page'. The main map area shows a satellite view of a region with several roads labeled: Six Forks Rd, Norwood Rd, Mt Vernon Church Rd, Six Forks Rd, Honeycutt Rd, Durant Rd, Falls of Neuse Rd, Capital Blvd, S Main St, Rogers Rd, and Burlington Mills Rd. A yellow line with arrows at both ends connects a red pin on the left (labeled 'Annie Louise Wilkerson Park Land') to a red arrow on the right (labeled 'Proposed Forest Ridge Park'). The text '+/- 3.0 Miles' is written along this line. In the bottom left corner, there is a scale bar for 1 mile and 1 km, and a compass. In the bottom right corner, there is a copyright notice: '©2005 Google Map data ©2005 NAVTEQ™ Terms of Use'.

From: [Spencer Horn](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Trails
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 11:08:53 AM
Attachments:

Thank you for the oppertunity to show our support last night for more trails in the area. I am a member of torc and will gladly help maintain and build trails at this location. I know we always want more and more trails, but put simply anything is better than nothing, and i do appreciate you considering us in your plans.

Thank you,
Spencer L Horn
Membership & public relations
Patrol member.

From: [Allan Brunner](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Mountain Bike Trails at Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 11:15:12 AM
Attachments:

As an avid mountain bike enthusiast, I'm excited to see that the concept plans for the New Forest Ridge Park includes mountain bike trails. There is definitely a growing population of mountain bike enthusiasts in the Triangle and fewer single-track miles to ride. This park plan would add significantly to our options and potentially play host to major mountain bike events drawing attention (and revenue) to the city and park.

Please keep the trails in the final master plans and thanks again for considering this growing recreational activity.

Allan Brunner
103 Olympic Drive
Cary, NC 27513
919-319-1852

From: [Samuel Fanjoy](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 12:04:05 PM
Attachments:

I attended the public meeting for Forest Ridge Park on March 2, 2006. My thanks to Vic Lebsock, the committee and the planning firm for all the hard work on this exciting project. I live just South of the dam and look forward to having the park in the neighborhood.

I support all of the plan. My greatest interests are in hiking and disc golf. Disc golf is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Since it is low cost, it gives young people something positive to do, and enjoy nature at the same time. Please consult with disc golfers and let them set up a course (or two) in a challenging, wooded area.

There were some good points made at the meeting about funding lower-cost, broad use areas such as hiking trails, disc golf, and mountain biking trails before the education center and overnight lodge, if limited funds are available. Although I'm not sure funding was the responsibility of the committee, these are good ideas to keep in mind.

However, I would question the true motives of the Wakefield Plantation residents who have tried to discredit the plan. This is a beautiful area that should be open to all citizens. Most of the Wakefield Plantation lots are several acres, so I don't think they will be disturbed by the park. I believe there is strong demand for all of the facilities planned at the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Fanjoy
President Emeritus
Falls of Neuse Homeowners Association, Inc.
(also know as Saybrook at the Falls)

1417 Freshwater Court
Wake Forest, NC 27587

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From: [Katie Lovelace](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park feedback
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 12:51:34 PM
Attachments:

Forest Ridge Committee,

I am so excited to see this land set aside for public use! With so much growth and development in the area, it is so vital to have an natural piece of land for the public to enjoy. I think having free access to outdoor activities is one of the best ways we can combat the growing obesity problem and keep kids out of trouble. I personally do most of the activities discussed within your master plan (hiking, biking, primitive camping, boating, fishing, frisbee golf, swimming, and horseback riding to name a few.)

I looks like a tremendous amount of work has gone into the planning of the park thus far. I've volunteered with the NC museum of Art for over several years. I know planning can be tough work! I thank you for your efforts!

I am a bit concerned about the priorities of development. In the first phase of development, with the limited bond funds provided, it seems the the basics park access and low cost projects should be put into place first followed by other development as the budget allows. To me the following importance makes the most sense and gets the most people enjoying the park with the least amount of money and effort....

1. Vehicle access from major roads to the park land
2. Parking for those vehicles
3. (low/no cost) Primitive trail system Walking, Hiking, Biking, Horse trails
many area clubs will build and maintain primitive (non-paved) trails for free in exchange for use of those trails. See Notes below.
4. (low/no cost) Primitive campsites
5. Restrooms/trash cans
6. Picnic areas

Additional funds could then be spent on other activities
- beach area

- frisbee golf course (relatively low cost)
 - paved trails
 - sailboat/kayak/canoe rental
 - ropes course
 - docks
- etc....

How to get your bike/multi use trails built for FREE. The biking community is large and growing quickly in the triangle area. Bikers will gladly volunteer their time and what tools they have to build and maintain single track trails in exchange for allowing them to ride the trails. Perhaps area hiking/jogging/horse clubs could help too? Just allocate land and they'll do the rest... you could even temporarily loan some portions of this land for trails and reclaim it in the future if additional money comes in for other development. Just be upfront with the folks doing the work if it will be temporary.

Contact information for area clubs:

TMTB Triangle Mtn. Biking <http://www.trianglemtb.com/>

TORC Triangle Off Road Cyclist <http://www.torc-nc.org/home.shtml>

NCFats <http://www.rtpnet.org/ncfats/>

GRID Girls Riding in Dirt <http://www.girlzridingindirt.com/>

Something to keep in mind - Multiuse trails are more dangerous than single use trails.

Although I am sure walkers, hikers, bikers, and horse riders will GLADLY share a trail, please keep in mind that a mix use trail is statistically proven to be more dangerous for the participants than a single use trail. *If enough land can be allocated for trails*; more trails, single use, one way directional and/or alternating days for the trail purpose (For example - Bikers Sat - Horses Sunday) can help keep injuries to a minimum.

Thanks for all you hard work!

Katherine Lovelace
5301 Harrington Grove Drive
Raleigh, NC 27613
919-866-0227

From: MCMECCA@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 1:36:08 PM
Attachments:

Comments on Forest Ridge Park

Dear Ma'am and Sirs:

First off I would like to thank each and everyone who has made the motion and attempted to get this park open. I would also like to especially thank the myriad of hikers and mountain bikers who so aptly expressed our concerns and ideas. As we all know, with only 4 million dollars available, mountain bike trails, hiking trails and bathrooms are the absolute best value for the money. Anything else would simply be a waste of money to start this project off with.

The point of a Park is to enjoy and commune with nature, not beat it into submission with more buildings, entertainment centers, clubhouses and such. We all realize that some parking lots are simply going to have to happen. Granted there may come a day when some of the aforementioned buildings and developments become part of this process, hopefully it will be no time soon! We all have plenty of buildings, asphalt and concrete on all the other golf courses, strip malls and "over" developments in our areas. Let's not do it there where trees, trails and woods should be priority one.

If anyone is interested in seeing what section of our populace is most moved and enthused by this proposed park, the showing of over two-thirds of the population of this meeting being composed of mountain bikers should suffice.

As far as mountain bike trails building costs, those costs are virtually nil by comparison to anything else that was proposed. As far as motivation, all we need is the "OK" to build and the professionals at TORC (Triangle Off-Road Cyclists) trained by IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) would most likely be out to start work on those trails within the very first available weekend. On top of that, mountain cyclist schedule their own volunteer workdays -- (often requiring no money or equipment) as well patrol and regulate themselves responsibly -- ask any local Park Ranger anywhere around this area! That is the sort of people who need to be addressed and that will use parks like this as long as our bodies will let us!

Thanks for more mountain bike trails!

James M. Dodge
Precision Franchising
Payroll / Personnel / I.T.

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From: [Tara Hun-Dorris](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Comment
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 3:43:28 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

Please incorporate as many hiking and mountain biking trails into the new park as possible. The area is wonderful venue for biking and hiking—both activities are benign in terms of harm to wildlife and allow the public the opportunity to enjoy the Piedmont's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Tara Hun-Dorris

THD Editorial, Inc.
1579 Highway 96 East
Youngsville, NC 27596
Telephone: 919-562-1194
Fax: 919-562-4936

From: [Dorris, John](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge park proposal.
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 3:58:00 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Thomas Dorris. I attended the planning meeting for the new Forest Ridge park last night (3/2). I just wanted to express my view that mountain biking trails should be expanded in the park proposal. Currently, they are only planning for about 6 miles of trail. That is very little by biking standards. We would like to see closer to 20 miles. Mountain biking fits into the mission statement for the park that states a wish to promote healthy, fun activities in a natural setting. Mountain biking trails are very affordable almost no-cost because of the volunteer work gladly done by the biking community. Also, there is no indication that biking in any way causes erosion or bothers wild life.

If we fail to increase the amount of biking trails in this park, Raleigh will have failed to do what its citizens have asked of it. Please think long and hard about this plan and consider what this park represents to the people you serve. We only want to help and be a part of this great and beautiful area. Your decisions can make that dream come true.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas J. Dorris
1579 Hwy 96 East
Youngsville, NC
27596

jdorris@bbandt.com

From: [James Chung](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Comment re: Forest Ridge Park proposed master concept plan
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 4:08:45 PM
Attachments:

To Whom It May Concern:

In lieu of my attendance at the planning meeting of 3/2/2006, I am respectfully submitting my comments herein.

I strongly urge to planning committee to increase the priority and scope of the single-track mountain biking trails planned for the Forest Ridge Park. This is my as well as my family's passion and we currently have too little legal trails in the Triangle.

The reasons for this emphasis is threefold:

- 1) Low environmental impact and cost of singletrack trails
- 2) Un-served community of mountain bike enthusiasts
- 3) Potential partnership and stewardship opportunities with organized and experienced MTB community (e.g. TORC)

Thank you for your consideration and acceptance of these comments.

James S. Chung

From: Frank.Castillo@nclabor.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: packleaders@pack-314.org; rbecker@bsamail.org;
Subject: comment on Forest Ridge, proposed park
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 4:49:59 PM
Attachments:

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that there was a public input meeting last night, over at Durant Middle School. Unfortunately, that conflicted with the Falls District Scout Leadership monthly meeting, held at St. Mark's Methodist Church.

I'd like to offer my comments in support of the following ideas:

- adventure education welcome center, with focus on classrooms, resource rooms and interpretive displays
- group campground, particularly group camping
- lakeside center, including lake access, volleyball, playground and picnic shelter
- overnight retreat center
- greenway trail, green amphitheatre, primitive paddle up camp, fishing piers, boardwalks

In keeping with the "No trace left behind" promoted by the Boy Scouts, I'd hope that whatever development that is undertaken, takes into consideration support for the terrain, minimizing run-off into the lake system, and allowing support for raptor nesting areas.

I'd like to be advised of the next meeting; hopefully, nothing else will appear that evening!

I appreciate your attention to my comments! Please feel free to contact me if the need should arise!

Frank Castillo
Asst. Cubmaster
Pack 314, St. Raphael's Catholic Church

From: Cdisc@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Friday, March 03, 2006 11:41:37 PM
Attachments:

Dear Folks,

I was at the Meeting last night as a member of the Raleigh Area Disc League (RADL).

I noticed that disc golf was within the first section of park amenities to be developed. I do not believe our primary position was clearly articulated by Mike Norris the president of RADL. The majority of people last night (most of whom seemed to live in Wake Forest and not pay Raleigh taxes) complained about how the money allocated for the park would be spent. The Raleigh Area Disc League does not need park monies to put in a disc golf course.

We only need the land.

Raleigh Parks has purchased disc golf target in the past and it would be great if they could do so again, but if there is any problem with allocating funds now we have 18 targets that came from Cedar Hills Rotary park that could go in the ground within 1 week of the approval of the course. Raleigh Parks can always purchase new targets later. The only "amenity" we require is access to the South part of the park and gravel parking. And maybe a Portajohn.

Raleigh has a vibrant disc golf community. We represent the spectrum of the Raleigh economy, and there has not been a new disc golf course in Raleigh in 22 years.

We only need the land.

I invite you to see one of the preeminent amateur disc golf tournaments in the Southeast on Sunday March 12 at Cedar Hills. I am the Tournament Director for the 22nd annual Dogwood Crosstown Classic, A Professional Disc Golf Association sanctioned amateur event. We will have 90 of the top amateur golfer on the East coast in town for this event. You may be surprised at the energy of

RADL and the player's passion for the sport.

Thank you,
Craig Ramsdell

712 Coventry Ct.
Ral -09
633-0133
www.radl.biz

PS. We only need land, not money.
CR

From: [Greg Schuster](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Comments From Thursday's Park Meeting
Date: Saturday, March 04, 2006 9:33:01 AM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Greg Schuster and I live at 6617 Lynndale Drive, Raleigh, 27612. First I would like to commend the The City of Raleigh, the Forest Ridge Planning Committee, The Army Corps of Engineers, and all others who have made this wonderful opportunity possible. Thank you so much.

Being a 33 year old Raleigh native and having grown up within a quarter of a mile of Lake Johnson, I understand the importance of parks for both our youth population as well as adults. As a child, I would walk with my parents along the one and a half mile section of Lake Johnson's greenway from Lake Dam Rd. to the boat house, and as a teenager, I went there with my friends to fish. My parents used to tell me to get out of the house and go to the lake and "Don't come back 'til dinner.". Now as an adult, I enjoy a four and a half mile run or bike ride around the entire lake and using the canoes. My life living next to Lake Johnson, has shaped the way I feel about accessibility to nature, solitude, and the ability to explore both the natural environment and within myself; all within an urban community.

Now, I no longer live close enough to Lake Johnson to enjoy its amenities on a daily basis and Forest Ridge stands to serve me with the opportunities that I have lost. I look forward to this park serving all of the "Adventure" needs of our community for youths and adults, including opportunities to hike, bike, canoe, climb, explore, learn, understand, appreciate, and even to forget our daily struggles. While I could add more to that list, I certainly do not want to see any of these opportunities removed. I am in favor of the Adventure Center being on the short-term priority list and do not feel that it is unaffordble for the city at this time. I also do not feel that these expenditures are unnecessary nor do I feel that that they conflict with the other more basic amenities such as the mountain biking trails, the benches and picnic tables, and the

restrooms. In fact, it is my feeling that the more basic ammenities are nearly an insignificant expenditure since many of the hiking trails already exist and mountain biking community is beginning to have an impressive record for providing volunteer hours for the construction and maintenance of their own trail systems. That being said, I agree with Sig Hutchinson that this park should be developed to its maximum natural potential for "Adventure Sports".

In closing, I believe that this park should have an adventure theme. The Adventure Center, including a climbing wall and ropes course, is needed and should be built, the mountain biking community should have a maximum number of trail miles (greater than 6.5 miles of singletrack) to warrant visitation, and the needs of the hiking and canoeing population should also be served.

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments regarding this wonderful resource.

With all respect,

Greg Schuster
6617 Lynndale Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

From: [Lori Groninger](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Sunday, March 05, 2006 3:38:43 AM
Attachments:

Hello. My name is Lori Groninger and I am Wakefield resident on the Raleigh side paying Raleigh taxes. The Forest Ridge Park is a much needed and eagerly anticipated addition to the Raleigh Parks System. Personally, I will no longer need to add to add to traffic problems and fossil fuel consumption by driving to Umstead or Durant Parks to walk, hike and bike. Taking walks in the beautiful land surrounding the lake without concerns about hunters will be a huge relief. There is a park in Evergreen, Co that has a log structure on the small lake there that is highly utilized by the community for everything from nature classes to wedding receptions. The community enjoys non-alcoholic New Years and Fourth of July celebrations that are highly attended by local families. The building creates revenue for the park. There are community fundraisers held there as well as a skate house for winter use. The adjacent private homes are quite desirable and expensive. It took 60 years to get this beautiful structure built on Evergreen Lake. While I would prioritize more trails for the park, I highly recommend a structure for community use based on my knowledge of the Evergreen Lake House.

Thank you.

Lori Groninger

From: [Robert Peterson](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [wjcamp@mindspring.com;](mailto:wjcamp@mindspring.com)
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Sunday, March 05, 2006 11:37:22 AM
Attachments:

Please reconsider the priorities that are currently set for Forest Ridge Park. At the meeting on Thursday, I learned that nearly 90% of the current funding is slated to be spent on the construction of a lodge in the first round of park construction. It doesn't make sense to put so much into something that would be utilized by a relatively small number of citizens.

I ask the planning team to look at simpler items that would be of more interest to a large number of Wake County citizens. Trail construction along with picnicking areas should be at the top of the list since they are less expensive to build. Adding boat access for kayakers and sailboat enthusiasts also makes sense. If cost is a problem, a small fee could be charged for those that use the boat ramp.

The park stands to benefit from the sweat equity of Triangle Off Road Cyclists (TORC) labor on the construction of single-track trails. I urge you to reconsider the short number of trail miles and double or treble the mileage to something more in keeping with current International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) standards. The IMBA offers a book that should be required reading for the planning team, [Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack](#). With properly constructed and maintained trails, Forest Ridge Park could become a mountain biking destination similar to Tsali and Pisgah in Western North Carolina. TORC members stand ready to help make this a reality.

A ropes course and other adventure park options are welcome in the northern part Wake County. I live in Cary and know that the ropes course at Bond Lake Park is popular. It is also a revenue generator when companies and groups rent the course for team building opportunities.

In conclusion, please add more mountain biking trails. Keep the plans focused on working with the current level of funding. Plan big, but do things that are possible within the framework of the bonds that are slated for this project. And have fun!

Thanks,
Robert Peterson
Cary, NC

--

Just because the monkey is off my back doesn't mean the circus isn't still in town.

From: [Barbara Beechwood](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Proposal - PUBLIC INPUT
Date: Sunday, March 05, 2006 12:10:32 PM
Attachments:

Dear Master Planning Committee,

First of all, let me commend you for partnering with Haden/Stanziale, who did an exceptional job in preparing the planning documents. I have also heard feedback from various stakeholders that Haden/Stanziale's facilitation during the initial design phase made the process much easier.

I would like to address two aspects of the Forest Ridge Park plan: The Adventure Education & Retreat Center and the Overnight Lodge.

The Adventure Education & Retreat Center

I have been teaching basic whitewater kayak skills on a part time basis in NC for a decade and have seen the interest in adventure based activities rise exponentially. During that time, I have participated in expanding three local adventure based programs (Raleigh Adventure Program, Pro Canoe & Kayak Get Outdoors, and Rock Rest Adventure), as well as staffing our local Carolina Canoe Club's instructional clinics. All of these programs are highly successful and growing every year to meet demand. Almost without exception, the folks in my classes are new to the area and seeking a variety of adventure based activities to participate in.

The Adventure Education Center could provide a centralized locus to roll out existing and new adventure programs from. This type of facility could serve all ages and skill levels. In my opinion, it would be heavily used above and beyond our current Raleigh Adventure Program offerings. School groups, youth clubs, seniors, outdoor professionals, teachers, and environmental educators will all have programs of their own that they will want to schedule into the Center. The types of learning opportunities and adventure based activities that could be offered there are not appropriate for a "Camp Kanata" setting. And as I found out last year,

neither is Blue Jay Point. Both of these existing facilities are geared towards children and youth, almost exclusively. Where are the rest of us to go? The adults and seniors?

Last year I organized a 5 day immersion workshop on Biomimicry for professional scientists. Immersion learning is becoming a very popular and effective form of education. Finding a local facility to host it proved to be very frustrating - we needed a retreat center that could also accommodate overnight lodging for 35 people for 5 days. After an exhaustive search that included camps and schools, I finally settled on Blue Jay Point, only to be told that their lodge books out *a year in advance*! (I saw the reservation binder with my own eyes - it was full). In addition, the BJP staff told me that although they are getting increasingly more reservation requests from adult groups, they are designed for their target market - youth.

Beyond youth groups, who will book a new Retreat Center and Lodge?

- Outdoor professionals (American Whitewater Instructor Update & Symposium)
- Local adult outdoor adventure groups (Carolina Canoe Club, TORC)
- Environmental educators of all levels
- Environmental researchers
- "Get Out There" programs for seniors

If built, I predict that the Retreat Center and Lodge will both be heavily used be money makers. It will also support current and potential local economic growth.

Thanks for taking time to consider my comments.

Barbara Beechwood
Masters of City and Regional Planning Candidate 2006
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
2717B Augusta Drive
Durham, NC 27707
bbeechwood@nc.rr.com
919-401-2870

From: stephen.goff@syngenta.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Monday, March 06, 2006 9:45:15 AM
Attachments:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I support the development of a low environmental impact "Nature Park" at the Forest Ridge site, but would be opposed to a complex with a number of buildings and camping. I think the original plan was quite good, and don't understand why a more complex and costly development is now being considered. Thanks for considering this opinion.

Regards,
Stephen Goff, PhD
Syngenta Biotechnology Inc
Wakefield Plantation resident

From: [Steve K](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Monday, March 06, 2006 10:15:24 AM
Attachments:

Forest Ridge Master Plan Committee,

As a 9 year resident of Wake Forest I was very excited to hear that an actual park was to be built close to where I live. Upon exposure to the Master Plan at the March 2nd public meeting I was very impressed with the variety of activities proposed however after realizing the limited budget you have to work with I feel that the current priorities are totally inconsiderate to the public that is funding this park. The primary focus of the park appears to to be an Adventure Center which will wipe out the current and a good bit of the future budget leaving nothing for any other user group until additional funding can be obtained.

After reviewing the voting of program elements from your documentation, it appears that you are ignoring the most popular and necessary elements in favor of several expensive structures. By either delaying or removing the 3 or 4 very expensive elements, the majority of elements can easily be completed in a timely fashion with the current funding thus giving the majority of the people something they can enjoy in the near future.

From your website:

PROGRAM ELEMENTS VOTING RESULTS

Element	Total
Restrooms	45
Picknicking	44
Hiking	44
Maintenance Facility	42
Picnic shelters	41
Canoeing/Kayaking	41
Overlooks (ADA accessibility)	40
Nature walks	39
K-12 Environmental Education	38

Running/jogging	36	
Fishing	35	
Multi-use trail	34	
Wildlife habitat enhancements	33	
Mountain biking	33	
Adventure/Education Center	32	*** very expensive and not high on the list
Birdwatching	32	
Sailing	32	
Camping	30	
Lake swimming	30	
Playground	29	
Rowing/sculling	29	
Bird & Butterfly Garden	27	
Classroom/meeting facilities	26	*** very expensive and not high on the list
Boat Facility (non-motorized)	26	
Cultural Interpretation	25	
Orienteering	25	
Waterfront Center	24	*** very expensive and not high on the list
Camping Lodge	23	*** very expensive and not high on the list
Public art	22	
Mutli-use Field	22	
Art Programming	20	
Informal Amphitheater	15	
Challenge Facility w/climbing wall	15	*** very expensive and not high on the list
Horseback Riding	3	
Disc Golf	-1	
Volleyball	-2	
Tennis	-13	
Skateboarding	-22	

I would also like to say that I feel you are totally under serving the mountain bike community with only 8 miles of trail. The land can easily support 20 + miles of trail and additional mileage will lower the trail traffic density and increase the utilization of the park. Not to mention that singletrack trails can be constructed for virtually nothing if done with volunteers (which I will be one of).

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing a revised plan that takes current funding and the actual users desires into consideration.

--

Steve Kaufman
226 Highgate Circle
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919)523-6590

From: [Jim Powell](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Plans
Date: Monday, March 06, 2006 4:29:26 PM
Attachments:

Dear Parks Committee:

My family and I reside off of Old Hwy 98 close to where one of the proposed entrances to the park will be located.

I support the concept of having a nature park but feel the currently proposed plan is more like a Disneyland instead of a nature park. I think the concept has gone way off track in light of the small amount of funds currently available. The current monies should be spent on a few parking spaces (20 to 40), public restrooms, garbage collection, and hiking/biking trails. The lodge should be cancelled, it is a waste of taxpayer money/bond funds, similar facilities exist elsewhere and are underutilized. Your survey from a few years ago stated it best, in summary: You should be providing these sorts of trails and simple outdoor recreation activities that can serve the greatest needs of the region's residents.

Best regards,
Jim

--

Jim Powell
Wake Forest, NC
jehpowell@nc.rr.com
919-562-9132

--

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From: [vanessa holt](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [Meeker, Charles; Stephenson, Russ; tcraven@nc.rr.com;](#)
[Crowder, Thomas; Taliaferro, Jessie; Kekas, Joyce; West,](#)
[James P.; pisle@boyceisley.com;](#)
Subject: forest ridge
Date: Monday, March 06, 2006 6:51:04 PM
Attachments:

I oppose having such a huge facility just steps from my home. I am appalled that it would even be considered. A nature park would be more than sufficient to keep the areas natural beauty. I would appreciate it if you would please reconsider this \$4 million dollar "conference center" (aka: new offices with lake view) with something that would be appreciated by the citizens of this community like the proposed nature park.

thank you,

vanessa holt

From: MJHowe@trademarkproperties.com
To: ParkPlan; george@ballentineassociates.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 9:23:02 AM
Attachments:

Dear committee for Park/Forest Ridge. I enjoyed Thursday's meeting, and found it entertaining as well. I live at 12045 Tharrington Rd., which is virtually surrounded by this 520+-acs. I have enjoyed hunting this land, with firearms, the last 10 years. Fall Lake was originally built for drinking water, hunting, fishing, and recreation. Over the years, I have seen, much of hunting land for public use, go State Park/restricted for hunting, and also archery zone. Much of the land that runs South to West, on the Lake, from the Dam, has gone archery. It currently has a very nice trail, for walking, or mountain biking. Also, I have have yet to hear anything of a traffic study, that spells out what will happen to Old 98 and Falls of the Neuse. Already, there is a jam, at that intersection; more coming with townhomes being built, at the

intersection, along with the proposed Bayleaf Baptist

North Campus. I am opposed to my hunting rights being taken away, on this land. Trails for walking, and biking are already in place, on nearby land. So when do we stop disturbing our natural resource, that was originally created State/Wildlife management?

Mark Howe, CCIM, NCGC
Senior Commercial Investment Broker
[Coldwell Banker Commercial](#)
[TradeMark Properties](#)
Value Driven. Client Focused.
1001 Wade Avenue, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27605
(o) 919-782-5552
(fax) 919-783-9934
(direct fax) 919-573-9278
(direct) 919-227-5519
(cell) 919-961-5559
MJHowe@TradeMarkProperties.com

From: [George Retschle](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [MJHowe@trademarkproperties.com;](mailto:MJHowe@trademarkproperties.com)
Subject: RE: Forest Ridge Park Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 9:33:54 AM
Attachments:

Dear committee,

I live at 12033 Tharrington Road and I agree with Mark's assessment below.

The current park plan is far-fetched and should be toned down significantly. What people want most are trails and the ability to enjoy this great piece of property without the significant development that the plan includes (WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD!).

I have also hunted on this property for several years and will miss having that opportunity – but I agree with the City's desire to serve more of its citizens by converting this property into a park and I'm willing to sacrifice for the greater good. It's the type of park that I don't agree with.

A traffic study is an absolute must if the full park plan is to be implemented.

Regards,

George J. Retschle
12033 Tharrington Road

-----Original Message-----

From: MJHowe@trademarkproperties.com [mailto:MJHowe@trademarkproperties.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2006 9:22 AM
To: parkplan@ci.raleigh.nc.us; george@ballentineassociates.com
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Comments

Dear committee for Park/Forest Ridge. I enjoyed Thursday's meeting, and found it

entertaining

as well. I live at 12045 Tharrington Rd., which is virtually surrounded by this 520+-acs. I have enjoyed hunting this land, with firearms, the last 10 years. Fall Lake was originally built for drinking

water, hunting, fishing, and recreation. Over the years, I have seen, much of hunting land for public

use, go State Park/restricted for hunting, and also archery zone. Much of the land that runs South to

West, on the Lake, from the Dam, has gone archery. It currently has a very nice trail, for walking,

or mountain biking. Also, I have have yet to hear anything of a traffic study, that spells out what will

happen to Old 98 and Falls of the Neuse.

Already, there is a jam, at that intersection; more

coming with townhomes being built, at the intersection, along with the proposed Bayleaf Baptist

North Campus. I am opposed to my hunting rights being taken away, on this land. Trails for walking, and biking are already in place, on nearby land. So when do we stop disturbing our natural resource, that was originally created State/Wildlife management?

Mark Howe, CCIM, NCGC
Senior Commercial Investment Broker
[Coldwell Banker Commercial](#)
[TradeMark Properties](#)
Value Driven. Client Focused.
1001 Wade Avenue, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27605
(o) 919-782-5552
(fax) 919-783-9934
(direct fax) 919-573-9278
(direct) 919-227-5519
(cell) 919-961-5559
MJHowe@TradeMarkProperties.com

From: [Kim Zimmerman](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 1:15:48 PM
Attachments:

Hi,

A few questions and concerns:

- 1) Will this park be a "dog-free" park? Dogs do a lot to disrupt wildlife, and they are messy. (For some reason folks who walk their dogs in the woods don't think they have to pick up after them.)
- 2) The Forest Ridge "South" section of the park is extremely close to the high school. Will this entrance to the park be gated and locked after hours to prevent loitering after football, baseball, soccer games? Also, gating would prevent some of the same kind of vandalism that has occurred just up the road at the Falls Tailrace area restrooms.
- 3) Will fishing only be permitted at the designated fishing piers (especially given there is going to be a sandy beach and swimming area included)?
- 4) Will the "South" entrance be directly across from Riverside Drive as shown in the diagrams? If so, there have already been NUMEROUS accidents at the intersection of Falls of Neuse and Riverside even without the addition of this park. We would like to propose a STOPLIGHT to handle the additional traffic or at least a flashing light on Mangum Hill to indicated traffic entering. (If you have any questions about how many people this park will draw, just look at the gated entrance to the Falls Dam area and see how packed it gets.)
- 5) Some concerns about bikers using the same trails as hikers. Seems biking interests are getting a lot of consideration. Why not just let the mtn bikers have their trails and the hikers/walkers have theirs? Plenty of sidewalk in Wakefield for bikers who don't use the mtn bike trails.

These are just a few questions and concerns we have about what is going to be happening across the street.

Thanks,
Kim Zimmerman
Riverside Drive
Wake Forest

From: [Kim Zimmerman](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Re: Forest Ridge
Date: Thursday, March 09, 2006 4:27:05 PM
Attachments:

Thanks for the quick reply. While we are excited about the park going in across the street, we are also a little apprehensive. Thanks again for the quick reply.

Kim Zimmerman

ParkPlan wrote:

- >1.
 - >This is not planned to be a dog-free park. The park will be posted with
 - >signs advising that dogs must be leashed and that owners are to pick up
 - >after their pets.
- >
- >2.
 - >Entrances to the park will be gated. At this time there are no plans to
 - >lock the south gate except when required by the Army Corps of Engineers
 - >for safety reasons. Use, presence of illegal activity, etc. will
 - >determine whether the gates will be locked on a regular basis.
- >
- >3.
 - >We have had this discussion at the committee table. Because there is
 - >bank fishing all around the lake we probably aren't going to be able to
 - >restrict this except in use areas, like the beach front area.
- >
- >4.
 - >A specific study will have to be completed before the precise location
 - >of the entrance is determined. It is likely that it will be directly
 - >across from Riverside. NCDOT is the agency that controls the location of
 - >lights. They have a very specific formula for determining the location
 - >of lights. I know that it is some time before the New Falls of Neuse is
 - >planned to be completed, but with the completion of that project the

>number of cars of Falls for Neuse will decrease significantly, easing
>some of the concern that you raise.
>
>5.
>Actually, the trails in the park for the most part are restricted to
>single types of users. Where this is not true is the asphalt 'park'
>trail that runs down the spine of the peninsula to the point.
>
>I hope this answers most of your concerns. If you have further questions
>do not hesitate to contact me.
>
>Victor (Vic) Lebsock
>Park and Greenway Planner
>P. O. Box 590
>Raleigh, NC 27602
>Telephone (919) 890-3293
>FAX (919) 890-3299
>email victor.lebsock@ci.raleigh.nc.us
><http://parks.raleighnc.gov>

>-----Original Message-----

>From: Kim Zimmerman [<mailto:catmagnet@earthlink.net>]
>Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 1:13 PM
>To: ParkPlan
>Subject: Forest Ridge

>Hi,

>A few questions and concerns:

>
>1) Will this park be a "dog-free" park? Dogs do a lot to disrupt
>wildlife, and they are messy. (For some reason folks who walk their dogs
>
>in the woods don't think they have to pick up after them.)
>
>2) The Forest Ridge "South" section of the park is extremely close to
>the high school. Will this entrance to the park be gated and locked
>after hours to prevent loitering after football, baseball, soccer games?

>

>Also, gating would prevent some of the same kind of vandalism that has
>occurred just up the road at the Falls Tailrace area restrooms.

>

>3) Will fishing only be permitted at the designated fishing piers
>(especially given there is going to be a sandy beach and swimming area
>included)?

>

>4) Will the "South" entrance be directly across from Riverside Drive
>as shown in the diagrams? If so, there have already been NUMEROUS
>accidents at the intersection of Falls of Neuse and Riverside even
>without the addition of this park. We would like to propose a STOPLIGHT
>to handle the additional traffic or at least a flashing light on Mangum
>Hill to indicated traffic entering. (If you have any questions about how

>

>many people this park will draw, just look at the gated entrance to the
>Falls Dam area and see how packed it gets.)

>

>5) Some concerns about bikers using the same trails as hikers. Seems
>biking interests are getting a lot of consideration. Why not just let
>the mtn bikers have their trails and the hikers/walkers have theirs?
>Plenty of sidewalk in Wakefield for bikers who don't use the mtn bike
>trails.

>

>These are just a few questions and concerns we have about what is going
>to be happening across the street.

>

>Thanks,
>Kim Zimmerman
>Riverside Drive
>Wake Forest

>

>

>

>

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Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties by an authorized City or Law
Enforcement official.”

>

>

>

From: [Patricia Amend](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 1:17:36 PM
Attachments:

Hello:

I have been a resident homeowner of Wake Forest for 1 year now. I previously lived in Cary for 10 years and miss it very much due to the access to lovely parks such Johnson Lake and Jordon Lake facilities. I am very excited about the new project for Forest Ridge Park. I feel we are in need of this facility in this area. I am looking forward to the day when I can utilize these facilities. I am wondering when the park will open.

Regards,
Patricia Amend

From: [Sheri Colquitt](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, March 09, 2006 5:21:31 PM
Attachments:

I think Forest Ridge Park near Falls of Neuse will be a great addition for Raleigh.

I understand that the plan is to build the large building first, and the smaller projects later. In my opinion, this seems a little backwards. Wouldn't it be better to develop the trails, camping sites, ropes course, and disc golf areas first? Those are the activities that will initially attract people to the park. It seems like the larger building can wait. Afterall, people won't want to visit the park just for a classroom setting -- they can do that anywhere. They will want to explore the new park and experience all of the nature activities it has to offer.

Sheri Colquitt
8213 Blue Heron Way
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-846-6596

From: [Cindy Baldwin](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Parlk
Date: Friday, March 10, 2006 9:37:51 PM
Attachments:

Dear Sir:

After attending the public meeting, and reading the comments in the news, I too would like to reiterate that we would like to see a park that would serve the larger population locally which means a true nature park with trails for biking and running. These would be your first priorities and not large buildings that will be under utilized and under funded. Please allow our children to have trails to ride their bikes and walks with their families and not just large buldings that will take up all funding of the bond.

Sincerely,

Cindy Baldwin
12501 Village Spring Road
Raleigh, NC 27614

From: Parkersharron@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Master Plan Comments
Date: Monday, March 13, 2006 8:34:17 AM
Attachments:

Trails first, PLEASE! My husband and I are very excited about the park, and want to walk there as soon as possible. We hope that building the lodge, etc. won't delay construction of the trails, which hopefully could be done quickly and at less cost.

Sharron and Ken Parker
1500 River Mill Drive #306
Wake Forest, NC 27587
562-4056

From: mv@builderproducts.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Parik planning.
Date: Monday, March 13, 2006 12:47:00 PM
Attachments:

Dear Planning Comittee,

I feel that it would be better to build the park trails, disk golf, fishing piers, interpretive centers as well as the cope course first. Then build the big ticket items last. That way the citizens of Raleigh will be able to use it much earlier in the process. In addition, if the funding is not all in place, you would still have a park that, by it's ongoing use, will sell itself. If folks get to use it, they will pay to improve it! Hey nice ryme eh? I'm sure The Boy scouts would be glad to comtribute service projects to the cause as well. Good luck!

Mark Valletta
BSA Troop 344 - Raleigh NC

From: [Bill Warner](#)
To: [Lebsock, Victor;](#)
CC: [pisleys@boyceisley.com; Kekas, Joyce; West, James P.; Crowder, Thomas; tfcraven@nc.rr.com; Stephenson, Russ; Meeker, Charles; Taliaferro, Jessie;](#)
Subject: RE: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Monday, March 13, 2006 2:02:09 PM
Attachments:

Thanks Vic. That explanation helps a lot and clarifies the validity of the public survey.

All the people I have been talking to really want this Park, despite what you might hear about the Wakefield residents on either side of Falls of Neuse. I do think most people would want the adventure programs you mentioned, as many are related to choices they made in the survey. What they don't need is a huge building that consumes most of the funds allocated to the project. These nature activates are wonderful for adults and children, and should be offered. If they are given in a natural setting, then that sounds pretty consistent with all the other low impact activities the public wanted.

The problem we are having is that there is only \$4M to spend, and any further funding will be a long time in coming. When you propose to spend almost all of that on a 10,000 square foot building, you will not be providing what the public really asked for a very long time, if ever, given the tightening of all municipal budgets.

Let's build this park, but let's get the plan prioritized to what the public survey indicated were their priorities. I am sorry to say this, but your public presentation built an expectation that is not going to be achieved for 20 years. Most people did not understand that they are not going to get what they asked for because there isn't enough money to build it. All those parents and children are going to be disappointed. I talked to several after the meeting, and they felt misled by the consultant's presentation. They are concerned that the committee's

priorities seem upside down and they are now realizing that the budget will not fund what they asked for.

You have a very clear opportunity to partner with Camp Kanata, who is already planning a private financing that will bring the nature programs you mentioned. To save taxpayer money, and to delivery additional nature programs, it is not understandable why your committee has not joined with them. Also, coordinating with Blue Jay Point and the camp grounds in the area would also reduce the expense for the proposed park. The committee's proposal is going to be substantially redundant with the other parks programs in the immediate area.

I don't know much about the environmental review process, but I did hear about the bald eagles. I suppose this review is a normal thing for any park project. I assume an agreement will be made with the environmental organizations.

We'll see you again at your next meeting on the 22nd to observe how the committee responds to the public's sincere concern about the priorities of this project. I am certainly not an expert in municipal government proceedings, but if this project were presented in the private business world, it would be readily observed that the "customer need" is not going to be met, therefore will be a failure. In this case, your customer is the taxpayer as reflected in the public survey you rightfully conducted before the planning started. We really want the committee to simply follow through and prioritize the spending of \$4M accordingly.

We'll see you on the 22nd.

Thanks, Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Lebsock, Victor [mailto:Victor.Lebsock@ci.raleigh.nc.us]

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2006 11:01 AM

To: Bill Warner

Cc: pisley@boyceisley.com; Kekas, Joyce; West, James P.; Crowder, Thomas; tfcraven@nc.rr.com; Stephenson, Russ; Meeker, Charles; Taliaferro, Jessie; Lebsock, Victor

Subject: RE: Forest Ridge Park

Mr. Warner,

You are correct in noting that residents of Raleigh did not include in their selection of activities any adventure program elements. The survey completed by Raleigh residents unfortunately did not include adventure program choices. Therefore these elements would not appear in the results.

Just a clarification concerning adventure programs; adventure programs are recreation programs based in the natural setting. Adventure programs teach team building and leadership set in nature. They are low impact activities.

Raleigh residents approved a Park Bond referendum in 2003. That referendum included \$4.0 million for Forest Ridge Park. The description of the elements that might be included an adventure program facility. It is typical that park improvements are funded in phases over a number of years. That is the reason the master plan committee is asked to prioritize the proposed facilities in all of the master plans. In this case the highest priorities includes:

- Multi-use activity area (north)
- Park Trail area (north)
- Paved trail to point
- Forest Ridge Park “South”
- Lake side Center
- Adventure Education/Retreat Center
- Associated Roads

Single track trails and disc golf course were not included in the list because they will be built by the mountain biking advocates at no cost to the City.

The Master Plan includes a facility approximately 10,000 sf in size. This facility does include an office for the Adventure Program staff, 200-300 sf in size. The rest of the building is building space. This building is intended to be the center of adventure program for the public not

dedicated to the program staff.

There has been a preliminary environmental review of this property. An Environmental Assessment is required by the Corps before the City can obtain a lease. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has done an assessment of Falls Lake and there no evidence of endangered species or endangered species habitat at this site. There Bald Eagle habitat at the western end of Falls Lake but not at this site.

The Master Plan committee has worked very hard to develop this Plan. They assessed the needs of the entire community and they have proposed a priority list based upon the information and feed back they have. The committee will take your comments into consideration as they evaluate the official public input.

Victor (Vic) Lebsock
Park and Greenway Planner
P. O. Box 590
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone (919) 890-3293
FAX (919) 890-3299
email victor.lebsock@ci.raleigh.nc.us
<http://parks.raleighnc.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Taliaferro, Jessie

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2006 9:04 PM

To: Bill Warner

Cc: pisley@boyceisley.com; Kekas, Joyce; West, James P.; Crowder, Thomas; tfcraven@nc.rr.com; Stephenson, Russ; Meeker, Charles; Lebsock, Victor

Subject: RE: Forest Ridge Park

Thanks for your note. I will forward your concerns to the Parks Board,

who will do a comprehensive review of the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan before it comes to the Council.

Jessie

From: Bill Warner [mailto:paladin@paladinandassociates.com]
Sent: Sun 3/12/2006 1:17 PM
To: Taliaferro, Jessie
Cc: pisley@boyceisley.com; Kekas, Joyce; West, James P.; Crowder, Thomas; tfcraven@nc.rr.com; Stephenson, Russ; Meeker, Charles
Subject: Forest Ridge Park



Jessie, here's an update on Forest Ridge. As you now know, Vic really did not have any further public justification for what he is proposing for Forest Ridge. What he sent you and I was simply a Parks Department wish list.

At last week's public meeting, we tried to communicate that we are in favor of having a park, but that we want the park that the public survey of 5,000 people indicated we want; that is, a low impact facility for biking, hiking, nature programs, overlooks and family activities like picnicking.

As you now know, the Parks Department's planning committee spent a few hundred thousand dollars on a consultant who was directed by the heavy majority of Parks Department officials and proponents on the committee. They dominated the planning process to propose a \$17M expenditure, with the highest priority being a \$3.6M Adventure Center. What the public did not realize is that there is only \$4M to spend on this park. Any additional money will have to come from subsequent bond issues, which could take another twelve to fifteen years to

accomplish. All of this is in the face of the unfulfilled infrastructure demands of the area that the City has so generously helped to meet.

This means that the Parks Department will build a huge building that will essentially serve as their Adventure Parks headquarters, giving them nice offices overlooking the lake, while the public doesn't get what they asked for in the first place. Their actions are disappointing, where a few people, who believe they know best, have put their private interests ahead of the public interest, when they should be responsive caretakers of the taxpayer's money.

What the committee also missed is that there are many parks and services offered in the immediate area. Camp Kanata already has many of the programs, and plans to raise another \$5M in private funding to add many of the Adventure Program features being proposed by the Parks Department. There are camp grounds within ten miles. Blue Jay Point has a lodge that is significantly underutilized. Coordinating with these and many other facilities in the area would have the positive effect of reducing the taxpayer expense while giving many of the services that the committee is currently recommending much sooner.

They didn't even propose biking trails that meet the minimum standard for mountain biking, further indicating that they really don't care about a major portion of the people they are supposed to be serving.

In addition, we have learned that there could be significant environmental issues, especially the protection of the bald eagles that reside in the area of the proposed park. Although the Corps of Engineers is represented on the committee, they have not been consulted as to their approval for the proposed usage and the environmental issues that they are managing.

This Parks committee has their priorities upside down. What we want them to do is to prioritize the use of the \$4M consistent with what the public asked for, and to take that recommendation to the Greenways Committee and eventually the City Council. The Adventure Center, Overnight Lodge, Lakeside Center, Camping Grounds should be removed from the proposal. What the public asked for will take all of the \$4M allocated to this project.

We would appreciate any help you can give to encourage the Parks Department to simply reprioritize this plan to match what they can afford and be responsive to what the public has asked for. As caretakers of taxpayer money, that seems like what they should be doing.

**Thanks,
Bill Warner**

Bill Warner
Managing Partner
919.570.1023 office
919.369.7031 mobile
 add to address book

Paladin and Associates • www.paladinandassociates.com

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From: [Chris Noonan](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park: Master Plan
Date: Monday, March 13, 2006 3:47:10 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

First, let me say I think this park is a great idea. However, having read the Preliminary Draft Master Plan, I think the Camping area should be placed in the HIGH priority category.

There are many Raleigh residents that would be glad to have additional camping facilities closer to home. While Boy Scout troops generally like to go farther for camping, on occasion they like to stay closer to home. First campouts for new scouts might be one such occasion. Cub Scout packs have family camping as well as Webelos campouts for which facilities like BW Wells and the proposed Falls Ridge camping area are idea. Unfortunately, BW Wells is in high demand and isn't always available. While I don't have daughters, I've seen Girl Scout troops at BW Wells and can well imagine they would like to see the camping at Forest Ridge enabled at the earliest possible date. The same goes for other Raleigh community and church groups. One of these is the YMCA. Raleigh has one of the strongest YMCA Y-Guides and Y-Princesses programs in the nation. These groups of 16 to 20 fathers/sons or fathers/daughters need to participate in camping and hiking to earn their awards. Many groups have multiple campouts. Again, BW Wells and Rolling View are of prime interest to these groups due to their trails, the opportunities to fish and the proximity to civilization since the children are ages 6 to 8. Forest Ridge would expand this ability for Raleigh residents.

Regards,
Chris Noonan

From: [Marcela Noriega](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2006 3:55:25 PM
Attachments:

Dear Mr. Victor Lebsock:

The reason for this email is to share with you a project that may match or can be incorporated in the master plan for Forest Ridge Park.

We are a group of local sculptors who are working on a sculpture park project. We envision the creation of a sculpture park such as one in Barcelona by Gaudi. The sculptures would be built with cement over a re-bar structure and covered with colorful mosaics. They would be placed according to the park design defining sitting (mosaic benches), walking and playing areas (water fountains). The height of the sculptures will range from 7' to 15' making them monumental and visible from a distance. The sculptures' design will be playful, colorful and fun.

We see this sculpture park as a place where visitors would go and visit and leave feeling refreshed, happy and rejuvenated. Feeling better for having been there.

This park would be a special, magic, colorful place where one can observe walkers pass strollers on the park's many paths. Elsewhere, people lay on the grass, near the majestic sculptures and water fountains, enjoying the sun and letting go of their worries. Other people are sitting on the colorful mosaic benches strategically placed around the park where the landscape, air, sun and art interact in harmony.

This sculpture park would be a place where friends meet friends, families bring their children to play, students do their homework, and the whole community recreates. As Gaudi's park in Barcelona or the one in Garaviccio, Italy by artist Niki de Saint Phalle, we see this park becoming a nationally and internationally recognized landmark.

We are already in the process of producing the maquettes for the sculptures and

benches. It would be my pleasure to show them to you. We are a team of artists with many years of experience in public art work design.

We hope that this idea would be considered by the committee. Please tell us your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Marcela Noriega
Virginia Bullman
919-741-0147

Yahoo! Mail

Bring photos to life! [New PhotoMail](#) makes sharing a breeze.

From: [Tricia Carney](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: To Victor Lebsock Re: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2006 5:38:04 PM
Attachments:

Dear Mr. Lebsock,

After reading a recent News&Observer article, I learned that the Forest Ridge Park plan includes a boathouse and a dock. I would like make two requests regarding the area near the boathouse. Would it be possible to include the following two items to make it possible for single sculling boats to be store and to be easily rowed from Forest Ridge Park?

1. Offer rental storage space for single sculling boats
2. Make the dock near the boathouse low to the water so a sculling boat can be launch from it

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the public meeting due to my travel schedule. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Patricia Carney
919-846-5251

From: [Mark Nalevanko](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [Vaughn Hastings;](#)
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 7:25:54 PM
Attachments: [Volleyball Courts at Forest Ridge Park.doc](#)

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. The name of the organization is vh1vball. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information to our approximately 600 members. For more information about our organization, please feel free to check out www.vh1vball.com.

We notice there are plans to have at least 2 sand volleyball courts as part of the master plan for the Forest Ridge Park on the shores of Falls Lake. We are in dire need in this area of well-designed beach volleyball facilities. Beach volleyball is a growing sport and, simply put, we need more quality courts!

We want to offer our services in helping with the planning and design of the sand volleyball courts at Forest Ridge Park. Please find attached a letter describing many of the requirements and concerns our members have with regards to the newly proposed volleyball courts.

Thank you for your time. Please acknowledge receipt of this email and direct any questions to me. If you have any problems viewing the attached document, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mark Nalevanko
vh1vball staff member
mjnaleva@earthlink.net
919-931-2032

RE: Forest Ridge Park Sand Volleyball Courts

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. The name of the organization is **vh1vball**. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information to our approximately 600 members. For more information about our organization, please feel free to check out www.vh1vball.com.

We notice there are plans to have at least 2 sand volleyball courts as part of the master plan for the Forest Ridge Park on the shores of Falls Lake. We are in dire need in this area of well-designed beach volleyball facilities. Beach volleyball is a growing sport and, simply put, we need more quality courts!

We want to offer our services in helping with the planning and design of the sand volleyball courts at Forest Ridge Park. At this time we'd like to offer the following suggestions for the new park as it pertains to the proposed volleyball courts:

- **Minimum of 4 courts:** Please consider expanding from 2 courts to at least 4 courts with the possibility of further expansion down the road. Only with larger facilities do people come and actually use the courts. Additionally, in past history, smaller facilities typically get neglected resulting in no one wanting to use the facilities. We also have a growing need in the area for locations that can support organized events such as leagues and tournaments, which require more than a couple courts. The **vh1vball** organization is establishing a juniors beach volleyball program this year and we desperately need more quality courts for that cause too!
- **Lakeside Beach Location:** Emphasizing the **beach** in beach volleyball, we would strongly advise that proposed courts be incorporated in a beach setting since these opportunities are few and far between in an inland community such as Raleigh. It would make sense to have courts setup as part of the proposed beach area on Falls Lake as opposed to a separate location as currently suggested in the Master Plan. Of course, the courts should be placed beyond the normal sunning/play area which acts as a buffer between the courts and the water. One member of the **vh1vball** organization who lived in Chicago for many years has stated that a major reason for the rejuvenation of the lakefront there was the construction of a well-designed park with lots of volleyball courts. People are drawn to a beach setting and having volleyball courts helps even more in creating a fun and relaxing atmosphere.
- **Quality Sand:** Time and time again courts are built without the proper type of sand. We don't know if it's because of lack of knowledge or trying to cut corners in cost. We hope it's more the former because the sand costs should not be that drastically different. A playing surface with at least 12", ideally 18", of sand

depth is needed. **vh1vball** can provide recommendations on sand type and supplier if requested.

- **Quality Nets/Poles:** Again, poor choice of nets and poles can result in no one wanting to use the courts. Poles should be adjustable to allow play at the different net heights for juniors, women, and men. This is extremely important if any thoughts of having organized play at the courts are to be considered.
- **Proper Shelter:** Often neglected but of valuable importance is some sort of shelter with seating that can serve as a break location during games. The idea is commonly incorporated at tennis parks and should be adapted for volleyball courts as well.
- **Easy access to water/first aid equipment:** As with any active sport, people need fluids to stay hydrated and an occasional injury event can occur.
- **Court Lines:** No one would consider playing tennis without lines drawn! The same goes for volleyball. Lines are needed and this is another item **vh1vball** can provide recommendations if requested.
- **Sand Rakes:** Having a level playing surface makes for a much more enjoyable experience. It's only natural with play that the courts can get dug out, so it's important that equipment is available to allow players and maintenance crews the ability to level the playing surface periodically.

Benefits? If you're asking the question of what benefits beach volleyball courts on the beach at Falls Lake can provide, consider these points based on observations from **vh1vball** member Derek Walter on the lakefront at Chicago:

- **The park gets used** - People appreciate the recreational facilities both for volleyball and a host of other activities. Volleyball is a draw even for people who are not players.
- **The beach stays clean** - Players don't want to play in trash or have to watch out for broken glass. They clean up the beach and make sure the surrounding areas stay clean. When I first started playing there we regularly found broken bottles/glass, many that had probably been there for years. Today there is none.
- **Revenue** - The city now has concession stands, rents equipment and court time, and collects fees from organizations running tournaments. I doubt the objective is to be a profit center, but these aspects undoubtedly help cover operational costs.
- **Economic development** – North Avenue Beach certainly can't take sole credit for the revitalization of downtown Chicago over the past 20 years, but it is a

factor in people's decision to move to the area. Most importantly it reflects the attitude and approach that the city has taken in its civic improvement decisions.

This short proposal is just scratching the surface but we hope it makes the planning committee aware of how valuable having multiple, well-designed, and located beach volleyball courts at Falls Lake would be for the Raleigh and Triangle area. We hope that these courts will be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions, please direct them to Mark at mjnaleva@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,
Mark Nalevanko
vh1vball staff member

Additional contributors to this letter:

Vaughn Hastings - *vh1vball Director* – vh1vball@yahoo.com

Derek Walter – walterd@mindspring.com

Chris Lebel - graveyardplayer@yahoo.com

Debbie Bakitis - dbakitis@hotmail.com

Ken Matz - Ken.Matz@sas.com

Annie Hogan - chopperannie@yahoo.com

Carole Robinette - carole_robinette@unc.med.edu

Barry Meisel - b_meisel@hotmail.com

Jeff McGann - jmcgann3983@yahoo.com

Brian Murray - brianmur@us.ibm.com

From: [Paul & Tami](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2006 6:47:27 AM
Attachments:

Forest Ridge MP Committee,

I thought it was great to hear the many varied comments you got on your Master Plan at the Public Opinion meeting. There really is a lot of interest from many areas in this Park. However, I could not believe that you were subject to so much criticism for items that you have very little control over. I have been working on the Horseshoe Farm MP Committee, and we got the same guidelines from the City Staff, that you do not need to worry about the infrastructure (access roads, utilities, etc) or how much the Program Elements are going to cost. Those are all things to be worked out by the professionals. I felt the criticism to you on these items was short-sighted and unwarranted, I believe one speaker even “sneered” at the Committee members as he walked back to his seat! I appreciate all your hard work on this Plan and feel it is a very good plan.

Perhaps the residents of Wakefield Plantation were promised a Park with nature trails and other amenities during early development of the property. The WP Homeowners Assoc website still shows an outdated map of the park property with a marina, multiple large picnic areas and roads throughout. Surprising that such a large development like Wakefield does not have any nature trails or paths through undeveloped areas, it’s almost like those speakers expect the City to take care of that oversight. In fact, 155 acres of nature trails will be coming soon just down the road from Wakefield, on the recently acquired Wilkinson, MD Nature Park site. Since most of Wakefield residents would likely have to drive to Forest Ridge Park, once New Falls of Neuse Road is complete, the drive to the new Nature Park would be just about as convenient.

I remember voting for the Park Bond that included Forest Ridge classified as a Metro Park with an Adventure theme. I would like to see it developed as an adventure park with emphasis on adventure sports. Ropes course, climbing walls, canoe & kayak launch, mountain biking trails and Adventure Ed Center, all are great ideas. If the Adventure sports programs are showing a leveling of interest, it’s probably from a lack of a central facility. This Ad Ed Center will provide a

place for the public to see these sports, receive training, and get active! We have approved a home for Raleigh's Environmental Education at Horseshoe Farm, an Adventure Sports center at Forest Ridge would be a great addition!

One addition I would like to see at Forest Ridge would be more miles of single-track mountain biking trails. There are no legal MTB trails in the Raleigh parks system and the "unapproved" trails are disappearing regularly. I hope you got a feel for the interest in mountain biking at the meeting, male and female, several different age groups and all income levels. A few additional miles of single-track trails in this adventure sports park would be appreciated.

Thanks again for all your hard work on this Master Plan, you really are creating something unique that will be enjoyed by Raleigh, Wake County and Triangle residents for many years to come.

Paul May
4904 Jacqueline Lane
Raleigh, NC 27616
ptmaync@nc.rr.com

From: WHBlackJr@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Plan Comments
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2006 1:29:23 PM
Attachments:

Dear Mr. Lebsack,

In general, I firmly support the draft plans for the Forest Ridge Park. However, please consider the following comments / recommendations.

1. The noted plan for the Lakeside Center / beach area is on the North side of the park. The North side provides extremely limited sunshine during all parts of the year and especially in the spring and fall when a day near the water is much more comfortable with the sun's warmth. In general the location of the Lakeside Center would be much better utilized if oriented with a south to west facing exposure.

Possible solutions:

- 1a. Swap the Ropes Course location with the Lakeside Center.
- 1b. Swap the Campground location with the Lakeside Center.

2. Consider adding a smaller beach area in the FRP - South as a supplement to the final location of the Lake Center. No additional amenities would be required. Location for a beach in this space would be ideally located directly west of the planned parking area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best regards,

William H. Black, Jr., P.E.
6140 Riverside Drive
Wake Forest, NC 27587

From: [Bill Camp](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2006 1:53:35 PM
Attachments:

I spoke at the public hearing on March 2nd as president of Triangle Off-Road Cyclists on behalf of the inclusion and possible expansion of the mountain bike trails in the master concept plan as presented at that date. My comments at the hearing were directed specifically towards those trails, and not towards the other elements of the plan. I wanted to take this opportunity to address the city and committee on behalf of my wife and myself as citizens of Raleigh.

We would personally like to thank the committee for working with the city and consultants in coming up with a plan that will be the crown jewel in the Raleigh parks system. This park will provide a place for citizens such as us, who do not participate in organized sports, to enjoy our recreation while biking, hiking and paddling. We support the current plan with only the exception that we feel that the property can easily support twice the mileage of hiking and biking trails with little adverse impact on wildlife in the park. Another suggestion would be to eliminate all paving of the wider all purpose trails/paths in the rest of the park. These trails could be surfaced with a screening material similar to that used in the resurfacing of the roads/trails in Umstead State Park last year. This would lessen the impact of those trails, as well as meeting all ADA requirements. An added benefit would be that those riding mountain bikes could then access the main peninsula without riding on pavement, and the feeling to all users would be less urban without all the asphalt.

We would also like to express our support for the inclusion of the adventure program center, overnight lodge, campground, ropes course, etc. The adventure program is an important aspect of the Parks & Rec department, yet it is currently in a location that is an embarrassment to the city. There are many citizens who pursue outdoor recreational activities, and it is the responsibility of the city to provide for our recreational needs in the same manner that organized sports are supported. Forest Ridge Park is the logical place for this new center as many of the activities that are their program elements will take place in this proposed park.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the committee to look again at the relative isolation of the main peninsula from development. This is not a pristine wilderness tract. This is a city park in a rapidly urbanizing portion of the county, and the single

biggest impact on wildlife won't be dirt trails in the woods. Rather, it will be the cessation of hunting when it is no longer used as NC Gameland. I would encourage the committee to actually visit one of the county parks with mountain bike trails and see for yourself. You can then talk to the rangers and get their input on working with the mountain biking community, and the positive relationship that Wake County and TORC currently enjoys. Not to mention the Triangle towns of Garner and Clayton, both of whom have mountain bike trails in their parks.

Thank you,

Bill & Christine Camp
4601 Joyner Place
Raleigh, NC 27612

From: [Richard Paschal](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Disc Golf at Forest Ridge
Date: Friday, March 17, 2006 1:06:05 AM
Attachments:

Committee members,

Thank you for considering disc golf in the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan. I attended the public meeting on March 2. It looks like funding is going to be the big holdup for most of the proposed elements of the park. Just a reminder: Disc golf is extremely cost effective on a per user basis. A bare bones eco-friendly course can be had for around \$5400. Alternatively, we don't need any money. All we need is permission to play there. The Raleigh Area Disc League can provide all the targets, design, and volunteers necessary to make it happen. We have a proven track record of working with Raleigh Parks & Rec. We pick up trash and take care of the parks. We provide a family-friendly presence in the park. All we need is a place to play.

Thank you,
Richard W. Paschal
2905 Haven Rd .
Raleigh NC 27610

From: [Ritter, Andrew](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: forest ridge
Date: Friday, March 17, 2006 9:24:21 AM
Attachments:

I am probably a day late for this but I just read the article in today's News and Observer and it bothered me greatly.

This park is a park for the people and to be used by the people. Not a "wildlife sanctuary" as was stated in the paper. The park bonds were sold to me on the premise that parks would be built that my children could use. Not a wildlife sanctuary. I protest greatly that as an intended use. I would not have voted for the park bonds if that was the stated use. My children do not want a wildlife sanctuary – they want a park to be played in.

Please build more bike trails to be used by people. There is a great shortage of trails in the county and not any in a city park. 20 miles of trails would hardly take up any space in Forest Ridge due to its size. When I voted for the bond this was what I was voting for. Not a wildlife sanctuary.

If you have any questions or desire further comment please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Ritter
Executive Director
North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors
4601 Six Forks Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27609
919.791.2001 x101

Forest Ridge Park

MASTER PLAN REPORT

APPENDIX D: CITY ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS



STAFF / CITY ADMINISTRATION MEETING MINUTES - March 9, 2006

Project: Forest Ridge Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Project No. 04136

Date of Mtg.: March 9, 2006

Location: Parks and Recreation Department, Raleigh, NC

Attendees:

H.Dale Coop	City of Raleigh Public Utilities
Robert Massengill	City of Raleigh Public Utilities
Martin Stankus	City of Raleigh Planning
Eric Lamb	City of Raleigh Public Works
Jim Parajon	City of Raleigh Planning
J. Russell Allen	City Manager
Victor Lebsock	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
Mary Van Haften	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
Diane Sauer	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
Dick Bailey	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
Mike Kafsky	City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
George Stanziale	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)
Todd M. Parrott	HadenStanziale, PA (HSPA)

Purpose: The meeting was held to present the Final Master Plan and the Priority Element Recommendations to city officials for preliminary comment.

- 1) Vic provided project background and description of property and overview of last public meeting.
- 2) George presented PowerPoint presentation to group that was used at last public meeting.
- 3) Public Utilities explained to group that swimming in this part of the lake was prohibited due to proximity to drinking water intake line.
- 4) A COR member asked whether roads were to be paved? - yes
- 5) A COR member was made aware that the site would be serviced by septic fields and that the placement of the septic fields would be decided in the next phase of the project.
- 6) A COR member asked whether the Lodge would be open year round? – Vic and Mike explained that the facility would eventually be open year round as demand for the facility increased.
- 7) There was a concern that the beach area would be used as a pull up area for motorized craft. Vic mentioned that the area would have to be roped off.
- 8) Due to the Park programs and elements, a caretaker would be need on the site.
- 9) A COR member asked that the roadway and parking lots be pulled further away from the water's edge as runoff was a great concern. 200' was set as the minimum offset from the water's edge.
- 10) Eric Lamb discussed the future roadway improvements at old 98 and the Falls of the Neuse and that it could disrupt traffic flow onto the site.
- 11) A COR member stated that the Master Plan document must reference the need to include BMP into the design of the park.
- 12) Vic mentioned to the group that the USCOE was concerned with the primitive camping area and the need for restroom facilities in that area.

The foregoing conveys HadenStanziale, PA's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached during the meeting. Any changes or additions should be brought to the immediate attention of Todd M. Parrott within ten days of receiving the meeting minutes.

Submitted by:

Todd M. Parrott, ASLA
Senior Associate
HadenStanziale, PA

pc: All attending
File

Forest Ridge Park

MASTER PLAN REPORT

APPENDIX E:

PARK, RECREATION & GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD



*TRANSCRIPT OF THE MAY 18TH, 2006 PRGAB MEETING REGARDING
FOREST RIDGE PARK*

*PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED DURING THE TWO WEEK PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD FOLLOWING THE MAY 18TH PRGAB MEETING*

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF RESPONSES TO PRGAB

PRGAB MOTIONS & AMENDMENTS TO MASTER PLAN

**Transcript of the May 18, 2006 Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board meeting
Regarding Forest Ridge Park Master Plan**

Kirschbaum: Jan Kirschbaum

Duncan: Jack Duncan

Lebsock: Vic Lebsock

Stanziale: George Stanziale

Teague: Ed Teague

Yoo: Kirk Yoo

Fosbury: Hugh Fosbury

Bostic: Richard Bostic

Carney: Tricia Carney

Warner: Bill Warner

Schab: Julie Schab

Camp: Bill Camp

Smith: Anna Smith

Colburn: Paul Colburn

Kirschbaum: So today we are going to hear the consultant's description of the Forest Ridge plan. You've all hopefully looked at the cds we had and read the plan. What we will do today is listen to it, to the presentation. You will meet the master plan committee members who are here, introduce the project managers and the consultants who are here, and then after we listen to the presentation then we will open it up to the public comment. The Board should keep in mind that today we are just hearing the presentation, listening to comments, and we will not vote on the plan because then we will have two more weeks of written comment.

Stanziale: This is George Stanziale with HadenStanziale.

Lebsock: First of all I want to introduce the many members who are here. You know that Greg Barley has been the co-chair of our committee, Mary Alice who is the other co-chair, and let's see if I can get everybody here; Anna Huckabee Smith who is on our committee, Carol Bainitis, Libby Wilcox, Aram Attarium,

[INAUDIBLE/OVERTALKING], Deby Pribonic, Ed Teague, Thomas McHugh,
Chris Snow.

[APPLAUSE]

Lebsock: And then finally our project manager, staff, Mary Van Haaften who also
represents the staff, Diane Sauer and with assistance from Mike Kafsky, how
could you miss him, he's the tallest.

[LAUGHTER]

Lebsock: George Stanziale was the consultant with HadenStandiale along with Nicole
Taddune is also here, with that George is here and he is going to spend about 15
minutes talking about the plan.

Sandhill: Thank you very much. I also want to mention that Nicole was extremely involved
with the primary work of the actual report and a number of of these drawings as
well, so. I was very excited about the work and how we were able to get involved
here and have control to help us with that. I appreciate the opportunity to be here
tonight. This is a—we are in our 13th month, I guess, it has been 13 months. I
think we actually did it on time. And we had a great, we had a really great
committee. They were passionate. We didn't always agree but that was good
because it gave us a better plan. We had some great discussions. People really,
really made a point of getting out to the site and seeing the site, understanding the
site, understanding the needs of the Parks and Rec Department.

We had a lot of things to consider; we had a number of different
organizations that wanted input and wanted the ability to have a series of trails,
build trails and so, and I think the really great thing is that we had great

participation throughout the whole process. I mean the attendance on the part of the committee, staff, and even the organizations who were interested were probably there every month; I mean we really had great participation. And I think that produces a better plan. It is really not the consultants that produce the plan, it is really the committee—they are the architect of the plan. You know we try to lead it through process and try to bring their ideas and feelings to a graphic form, but they are the ones that architect of the plan.

I am going to go through it very quickly. I am not going to spend a lot of time on the slides; I will get to the master plan and then we will talk a little bit more in detail about that. Everyone knows where the site is along Highway 98, right along the site of Falls Lake; it is an absolutely gorgeous site if you haven't been there. Not a lot of places in the Triangle that are like that. You can walk out to that point and just think you are away from everything so it is really quite an amazing site. As you know, it is located in Wake County; it is about 586 acres, currently owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. It is leased and managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission and it will be a sublease to the City of Raleigh. It is proposed as a metro park.

At our very first meeting back in April of 2005, we basically had great attendance; we went through basically the process. This is Raleigh's process for doing a master plan. We did some education of site, provided the a lot of different analysis drawings to show them that we've been there, we know what the topography looks like and all of the physical characteristics of the site, access issues, all kinds of things like that. We went through Parks and Recreation needs

assessment. We were told we would be developing a mission statement, a program for the site, conceptual master plan, preliminary master plan, and final master plan document and then priority elements. These are some of the things that we kind of started off with thinking about, the themes, the actual themes of the park. We talked about programming. We talked about the balance between preservation and development—I will tell you a little bit about that. Access, parking, traffic issues, types of trails and configurations and so forth that we want to think about, noise and lighting related to adjacent neighborhoods.

We developed a sort of a picture—we developed a mission statement that without me reading it—y’all have had an opportunity to read it—we talk about coming to a balance between a very beautiful natural site and development providing a lot of opportunities for education and activities in balance with nature and that would serve the greater Raleigh area, Metro Park. This mission statement was put up on the wall at every meeting. It was the basis for decisions. And we made that very clear to everyone that it would have to be. So we spend quite a bit of time developing it. We came up with a list of program elements that we thought we might want to include in the project—you see here that it was a way for us to prioritize particular elements. We came up with conceptual plans from those meetings, honestly the conceptual plan ended up being very, very close to what we ended up with at the end so I will just go through some the master plans. We actually had two conceptual plans; the difference was where the road fork would be located and one of the other large elements. We came up with a preliminary master plan; it really started to get—one of the things that was

difficult for everybody, and I think this is always the case, particularly on a project of almost 600 acres, is that there was always an issue with scale.

Everybody, sort of, lay people, sort of understanding the scale in that you know we can draw a line on a piece of paper on a 600-acre site and there might actually in reality be about 15 feet wide, you know, the length is really not that, you know a single tractor trailer is really only a foot-and-a-half wide, so. You, you know what does parking lot look like? We gave them a lot of education about getting things to look at that said you know what a tennis court looks like, you know what a football field looks like, that looks like, so that they could begin to understand the scale of things as we were putting them on the drawing. So the drawings kept getting down, down, down to scale and detail until we came up with the actual master plan. And I will just run through that very quickly.

I am going to read a few things just in case you get everything—that master plan was broken down into several areas. We saw the area at the very top of being one part of the park and this lower area as being another part of the park and there were two reasons for that. One was that we actually did want to try to divert traffic to two different parts of the site so that everybody wasn't coming into one entrance, which ended up being through the neighborhood. We then had a more, I want to say active but it is really not an active area because it is really, it is _____ that are not about ball fields and tennis courts and things like that, it is about nature facilities, learning facilities, education facilities. They have a beach area. And then this particular area, basically this point was left. We really felt like that part of the site needed to be natural. There were trails running through it

but there was also the opportunity for people to walk where they want to walk and sort of make their own day so—the site was broken down to these very large areas. Of the close to 600 acres, we have only really developed about 5% of the site in impervious surface, meaning roads, roofs, parking, trails, paved trails. So very, very small part of the site is actually developed and yet we have to have a program that gives people a lot of opportunities to do a lot of different things.

The lakeside center: canoeing, kayaking, a boat house, a bathroom and bathroom beach. The one thing I will say about the beach is we learned very, very late in the process at our staff presentation that there is no body contact allowed in this part of the lake. So we have to lie on our beach and look at the water and feel cool. You can do kayaking, boating - kayaking, canoeing, and those kinds of boating - but you cannot touch the water. This is a highly protected part of the lake.

Volleyball, park concessions and a bath house. We have a camping ground, a group camp ground with 5 other camping areas, rest rooms, shower facilities, and some minimal amount of parking. We have an overnight lodge here - about 6,500 to 7,500 square feet accommodations for about 75 guests with an industrial kitchen, large interior common space, storage and maintenance facility, caretaker residence adjacent to it, parking and restroom/shower facilities.

The area up in this, up here—there were two areas of the site that were very open. For the most part it is a wooded site. There are two areas you can see behind me up on the wall that are, that were sort of open meadows and we felt that would be an area for essentially multi-use areas, not organized sports not

organized games but a place for people to roam, run, you know, do whatever they want to do. We have some transition areas which are environmental that so that you go from a grassy field to a transition area to woods. So we do have some parking in those areas. So there are basically two of them and those are already open areas of the site.

The other thing that we wanted to do as you enter the site, was move the entrance back into the site so that we wanted to minimize any backup of traffic on the road and the adjacent neighborhood so you come in, it is sort of a winding road that leads back to the gate house and you are into the site before you actually stop and check in. In this—let's go back here. This area of the site we've got a ropes course, we have a disc golf area, we've got a small sort of playground area down in what we call the Forest Ridge Park South. We have a number of different trails that range from single-track bike to nature to paved trails. We also have a parking lot on the trail, the trail system that runs literally the entire north-south side of the park. So let's go back.

These are some of the blow-up areas of the—the adventure, education, and the tree area are here. And you see that we, one of the things that we wanted to do is push these buildings back away from the edge of the water so that you might get filtered views back to architecture that might be a lot of glass and wood, very sort of reflective elevation to those buildings. The Corps of Engineers made it very clear that they didn't want buildings right up on the water and we certainly agreed with that. So if this is a kind of view, of course we've kind of opened the trees up so you can sort of see the kind of building that we would want but

realistically it's really tucked back into the trees. We have a beach area with the group camping. One of the things that we were asked to do and it's in the report at the staff meeting was they wanted to make sure that we had a minimum of 200 feet from the edge of the water back so that, so we were very careful about that. These are the open play areas, the disc golf area.

We ranked in priority our program elements from high, medium, and low. We went through a voting process at each meeting and received for the most part they were unanimous. We had a few people who had their say about things but for the most part you can see that we had a unanimous vote. And then after our last meeting there were a number of comments and there were basically three things that we were asked to do to change. One was to expand- it was put in the master plan before this—to the extent possible to expand the single-track bike trail to up to 20 miles. The site can handle it; it will just be a matter of how it gets done and how sensitively it's done. There was some additional language that related to how we actually saw the priority programs that we put into the master plan report. We also were asked to put into the report that we would expand the wilderness trails up to five miles and then of course there was a staff comments - three basic ones were to make sure that in our report that we employ sustainable design principles/methodologies, keep that 200 foot distance from the edge of the water, and that the beach have no body contact.

With that I'll open to questions.

Kirschbaum: Let's wait with the questions until we hear public comment. Thank you. What we'd like to do tonight is get as many extra ideas on the table as we can and I

would like to get as many people to speak as I can. Is there anybody who walked in late who wanted to sign up to speak so I just have a general idea of how many people? Okay.

Every speaker tonight gets three minutes and we have a two-minute warning light and a three-minute light. And please identify yourself or any group you might belong to, and if there are other people from the group please stand so we can have an idea of how big the group you represent. If you could refrain from applauding during the presentations to keep things moving. And also because sometimes it is intimidating to people who have different viewpoints and you are clapping for one viewpoint and not for another so that would just help keep things open and moving.

The thing to know is that everybody on the board who hasn't been at prior community meetings has gotten all the written comments received on Forest Ridge up to now and so has had an opportunity to hear a lot of the prior comments, so keep that in mind and don't feel like things will get dropped or forgotten. We are not voting tonight. If one person says something and you are going to say the exact same thing, you might think about thinking of something new or refraining because again, what we're trying to do is get all the ideas on the table, we are not voting, we are not seeing who has the most people here. We just want to hear what people have to say about the plan. It would also be nice if people have any creative or new ideas, it's fun to hear new things, too.

You know I want to thank the master plan committee and the staff members and consultants, so a lot of them worked really hard. And I think we all

need to respect that effort. Tonight isn't really a time to criticize the process if it doesn't help us to develop the plan. So what we ask you to do is put everything on the table so that we can do our best job in recommending to city council a good plan. So remember the parks board just recommends – we're advisory - so we will passing what you say to city council.

So, with that, let's hear – Let's start with the master plan committee - is there anyone from the committee who would like to speak first? Come forward and introduce yourself.

Teague: I am Ed Teague and I'm on the master planning committee and I would first like to say thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight and I also want to first say that I am very much in favor of the Forest Ridge Park and I am very excited about a lot of the developments that are in the park plan. (INAUDIBLE) I would like to make a couple of comments – specifically about the old process and also with respect to the current plan contents and elements.

With respect to the planning process - At the initial Forest Ridge Park planning committee meeting, it was stated by the park department staff that there were no preconceived ideas with respect to the proposed Forest Ridge master plan design. In fact, elements of the Forest Ridge Park appear to have been predetermined before the planning committee was ever formed. Evidence of this is contained in the Raleigh Parks Plan adopted on May 4, 2004 – a year before the committee was formed. Page 106 of the plan contains the following statement, “P&R bond monies have been identified for a whitewater park at Falls Dam and a possible Adventure Facility at Forest Ridge Park.”

The objective of the new park planning process is an honorable one in that it seeks to gain greater public input than the former process. I submit, however, that execution of the process is flawed and needs to be re-evaluated. To begin with, committee membership had substantial representation by individuals directly or indirectly associated with or closely aligned with the parks department. In addition, the planning consultants, who are responsible for architectural design and engineering, strongly supported the parks and recreation department's agenda. The inputs of committee members representing local community feedback in many cases was discounted due to their proximity to the park and were literally accused of being "self serving" – when in fact, the evidence suggests that the process has been steered to achieve the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Department.

With respect to the current master plan, while some progress was made in the last committee meeting to align priorities in the plan with public interest expressed in a survey conducted by the Parks Department itself, the fact remains that the current plan still reflects a high priority on the Adventure Program. This program will require a major portion of the current \$4M budget.

Data supporting strong demand for an adventure program in the Raleigh area has not been produced. In fact, the Park Plan I referenced earlier indicates a relatively low level of demand or usage for adventure programs. What the survey did indicate was a strong interest in a low impact, nature-based park containing trails, biking, picnicking, etc.

In light of the obvious and strong desire on the part of the Parks and Recreation Department to offer an adventure program, a creative proposal was made in a motion to the Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee which involved partnering with Camp Kanata.

Kirschbaum: Could you please wrap it up?

Teague: Did I use my three minutes?

Kirschbaum: Yes – three minutes.

Teague: Specifically, I propose the following:

Revise the park plan to be a simpler, nature-based park as opposed to one that is centered on a comprehensive adventure and summer camp program. Focus on park elements with the highest public interest such as trails, biking, picnicking, multi-use areas, etc.

Pursue, in earnest, partnership arrangements between Raleigh Parks and Recreation and local organizations such as Camp Kanata and others that already offer similar programs to deliver an adventure program as well as camping and other programs.

Kirschbaum: Okay. Thank you for your comments. Anyone else from the master plan committee? Alright, let's start with the first person – Kirk Yoo.

Yoo: I'm Kirk Yoo with the Raleigh Area Disk League. Can you guys give me a show of hands or stand up - all the guys who were interested in disk golf and a course for the park. I want to say thank you for getting disk golf on the master plan we are really excited about it; it's been 22 years since we Raleigh has put in a new course and eager to get a new one in. With our proven track record of working on

courses, cleaning up the garbage, putting in benches, putting in baskets, at this point we all are kind of a ways off as far as this is concerned but all we're really looking for is a place to park and a place to start working and we can have a course playable with 18 holes within 30 days.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. And Hugh Fosbury.

Fosbury: I'll be brief, but not that brief – that's pretty good [LAUGHTER]. Again my name is Hugh Fosbury. I live on Waterfalls Drive in North Raleigh, not too far from the park we're talking about here. This morning I was getting ready for work and I'll share the challenge we have here and I talking to my wife about I'll be late and what to do about picking the kids up. She said, "What are you going to talk about, what is your problem with park anyway? Why are you against that park? And it kind of made me stop and think my wife doesn't even appreciate my personal position on this phenomenal opportunity we have here. So I want to make it real clear, I'm definitely not opposed to a park; I think this is going to be a great addition to the community and all of Raleigh, so I'd like to be clear about that.

My only question is around what is in the park, but it's more of a prioritization basic issue. So it is not about what it is—it is really more about what do we have to work with in terms of money and what should happen first from a phasing standpoint. That is really my only question. If we have or if the group here, the City has \$17 plus million to pay for all of those _____ - have at it. The reality is we don't. And I understand we have \$4 million from the approved bond. Yes I am sure new bonds will be approved in the future but I'm not sure

we can bank on that given the challenges of the taxpayer's money. So my logical though would be, work with the money that we do have, the \$4 million, and let's try to get something the public is.

[END OF SIDE A TAPE 1/BEGIN SIDE B]

.... we are using is this nice 20-year plan as a benchmark for that park. So as I look at the list that was put up there, the way I understand it is that the high priority items are going to represent the additional phasing, utilizing the money that was set aside. Just doing the math, why have a draft plan that's high priorities are about \$9.5 or \$10 million. You've got \$4 million to work with, so something has got to give. The biggest element, in fact, the very first item on that high list is the education and retreat center. And the picture has since fallen down, but it is a gorgeous new facility and it will be very nice. My question is, is that really the best use \$4 million—that single item is estimated in the plan at \$3.5 million; \$3.5 out of \$4 million is gonna be spent possibly on this one retreat center. Now the committee, in fairness, at the last meeting that I think was shown, did acknowledge the fact that equal weight should be given to each of the high priority items. So somehow to achieve the, I guess priority object of each of the four or five; It that my warning?—Am I done?

Kirschbaum: That's your time.

Bostic: In a sentence or two, what is your number one priority?

Fosbury: Number one is what I would consider the traditional park element that the public has indicated in the survey they lack—trails, open areas, greenway space, space for disc golf, hiking trails, walking trails, those type of elements, restrooms,

maybe a small welcome center, area that may be a maintenance shed is obviously important. Part of that infrastructure and elements. And down the road they will have the _____.

Kirschbaum: Okay, thank you. Let me just remind the speakers that the light that's bright yellow means a minute to go and red means stop.

Duncan: And that wasn't my wife on the cell phone. Our emergency command center has told us that we've got severe thunderstorm warnings and hail and high winds. So you may want to just stay with us for a while.

[OVERTALKING]

Kirschbaum: Let's take questions afterwards. Tricia Carney?

Carney: Hi, I am Tricia Carney and I am a rower on Falls Lake and I am very happy when I was reviewing the master plan, to see that restrooms was at 45 votes and sculling and rowing as 15 votes lower. So then to review the plan though I guess I didn't see the specifics about the boathouse if there was going to be facilities for sculling for example, boat storage as well as a low profile dock where you could put your boat in.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Bill Warner?

Warner: My name is Bill Warner. I live in Wakefield at 6516 Wakefalls Drive, we also have a driveway at Old 98. I live about a quarter mile from there. I am very, I am here to speak for the park. Let there be no doubt about it, I'm one of those Wakefield guys that most committee members can't stand. [INAUDIBLE] But look, I am confused by this process. And I think it is easy to fix. Back in 2003 you all published what you proposed in your bond issue \$47 million, Forest Ridge

was in there. You told the taxpayers that it was going to be trail and open space preservation. The public therefore voted for, it was passed, and that is what they thought they were going to get. So 2005 we have a committee, it takes over a year, God knows how much consulting fees to create this grandiose plan that is \$17 million worth of park stuff. But what you told the public you were going to do is something much more natural.

Now, what is also confusing to me is in January that same year I think this committee or the Recreation Department, I'm not sure which, told the City Council that Forest Ridge Park was going to be an adventure-based recreation program. So in January of 2003 you all knew what Forest Ridge Park was going to be, long before this committee convened. It is not a big surprise to any intelligent how eleven to two votes or eleven to three votes can occur in committee despite this consultant's report on the subject. I would like to have a park that the public told the consultants they wanted to that showed the priorities. This adventure center appears around the middle on the list. Somehow by the voters of this committee it winds up as a top priority list.

My request, Madam Chair, is that you direct this committee, go back and try again, propose a priority that is consistent with what the consultant's report actually says, and what you will find out is biking, hiking, picnicking and all of those kinds of things that you told the taxpayers it was going to be in the first place. Contrarily you also told the City Council nine months earlier but confirmed by the consultant itself as to what the public actually wants. That what I would like you to do. Thank you very much.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Julie Schab?

Schab: Good evening. I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I live in Wake Forest. And as a resident, I was strongly support the concept of a nature oriented park and welcome the opportunity_____ March 22 meeting, the committee did a tremendous job, took our comments to heart and made some modifications to the master plan. But still there are still some issues that have not been appropriately and adequately addressed_____ talking about our concerns_____ indicated that there would be collaboration with area agencies, recreational facilities, established non-profits groups, etc. to try to incorporated all of what we have available into this master park plan. But I also question, for example, what does the Forest Ridge Master Plan already include existing community based park sites and facilities that also_____ instead of building a \$3 million dollar building that's going to duplicate services and programs. Why Camp Kanata which is a dining, meeting, and lodging facilities with established...children summer camp program...included in the master plan_____ but instead spend \$3 million on grandiose structure that is beautiful but not necessary from the perspective that we are not tapping into community resources already present. Blue Jay Point County Park is another example of an overnight lodge that is only used 50% of the time. Why would we look at spending \$1.7 on another overnight lodge. The triangle area YMCA facility offer programs including a climbing wall program that was suggested at Forest Ridge. It would seem that we should look at what we have available already, try to incorporate it, but most importantly we'll be able to save taxpayer money and meet the needs of the public of what they originally

expressed. I would ask again respectfully that you go back and look at the priorities list and for \$4 million we're gonna have for this first bond, delegate the money to the appropriate nature park oriented activities – hiking, biking, disk golf – exactly what was previously said that we were all anticipating we were gonna have. At this time, at this juncture.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Bill Camp?

Camp: Hello everyone, I'm Bill Camp. I am the Vice President of TORC the Triangle's Off-Road Cyclist. We are a local chapter of SORBA, which is the ____ Off-Road Bicycle Association. We just founded last June and currently 160 members. [INAUDIBLE]. We are here to support the plan as it currently is, with the up to twenty miles of trail; obviously we weren't happy with the previous version.

They thought, they suggested that I give you some numbers as to what we are talking about [INAUDIBLE]....need analysis survey showed that 14% of the Raleigh residents surveyed have mountain biked at least one time in the previous 12 months. And there was another 12% that would have like to...So that is 14%, based upon the July 2004 census numbers, which comes out to 46,000 people so there is definitely a lot of people that ride a bike at least occasionally in the city. The city currently has no trail systems...a very short section of trail at Lake Johnson that are not single track at Durant Nature Park-less than two miles [INAUDIBLE]. There is no dedicated single track system in Raleigh City Parks at this time so we strongly support this plan and we don't want to see any of the trails taken out. And that's the main thing I'm here to say. Mountain bikers typically...outdoor recreation type activities. I personally am a paddler and also

hike and I also have a...bike...greenway...and I've had zero negative comments 100% of the calls I've gotten and emails I've gotten have supported the park plan as it. Basically that's all I've got to say. Thank you. [INAUDIBLE]

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Anna Smith?

Smith: I have very few comments. I'm Anna Smith with the Wildlife Resources Commission, I'm the urban biologist. First of all I'm really proud of my committee, I think they did a good job putting this plan together and my only comment was the trail system has been a point of contention mainly because from a wildlife standpoint, the more footprint you have on the landscape – be it buildings, be it intrusion by different trails, hiking, biking, it doesn't matter – it's just human presence on the landscape. If you have wildlife scared off of that area if you're trying to have a balance like we said in our vision statement of preservation plus human recreation component, we just need to keep in mind that the fewer trail the better as long as we each have a nice compromise between being able to hike in the area. We don't have to necessarily access the entire peninsula. I personally have a little bit of a problem with up to twenty miles being added. There are statistic that show that different wildlife species react very negatively to human presence on a trail and up to 300 meters off the trail. So I just want you to keep that in mind. I've made comments in the past that the plans before this drawing I kind of like a little bit better in those terms. Other than that, I like to encourage everybody to really see this plan take off and make this park into what we've created here because encouraging people to get out into the

landscape and just enjoy a trail or a picnic and get them interested in nature. I appreciate your time.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Colburn?

Colburn: Hi, my name is Paul Colburn. I live at 1908 Mountain High Road. What I'd like to call to your attention is that in 2002 the Parks Department commissioned this study and basically what they did - they do these studies to find out what the needs of the people in the City of Raleigh are, so they poll a lot of people. And probably spend a lot of money on this study. But I'd like to focus on this study because I'd like to show what it shows - I'll give you a brief in three minutes or less. What it doesn't show is where to go from here. What the study does show is the Parks Department wants things like walking trails, hiking trails, overlooks and nature kind of things—I think that is pretty plain, straightforward and simple. What doesn't show is there is no strong data in this Park Department survey which was commissioned by the Parks Department to support a lot of the adventure components that are in the proposal. They are going to be the expensive things. And they re-prioritize within this list as being high priority.

The question is how did this adventure park become such a high priority? I think you should look into that. The survey doesn't support that. If you go back and you look through that survey it is not going to support that. Second, the use of these kinds—if you go back and look at all of the park data where it talks about the adventure park program, the use of those programs has been flat since 2004 despite the increases of population and people that want to use these parks. And third, talking to the director of Camp Kanata, which is probably about three or

four miles away from here, he has confirmed that the interest in these types of programs is flat.

So I say where do we go from here as a group? Based on the survey results the planning committee has very poor justification for this concept the way it's proposed. I think it needs a ____; I think it just needs to be re-worked and re-prioritized and that is pretty much where I think that things should go. I think it is going to go before City Council so my recommendation would be to basically modify, or at reprioritize some of these things in there and get rid of some of these things that they aren't really going to be able to afford in the first place anyway rather than building a building and then having none of the existing structure around it. So I think there needs to be all cost out and really looked at very carefully. Because there are limited funds – we all know that – there's a \$4 million bond attached to this particular park and that's what we have to spend. I mean, to think that you're going to out and get \$17 million; I just don't think it is going to happen. If you read the paper every day, it is just not going to happen. And you still have the Park Department, they probably commissioned this study prior to the making this proposal to the City Council for the budget to the public. And I think that you just need to go back and study that. I give all that information to you in three minutes, but it's all there.

Kirschbaum: Thank you. Okay, are there any late comers who would like to speak? All right, so with that we close the verbal part of public comment. I thank you every one for coming and speaking for three minutes and thanks for the comments. Just out of curiosity, I'd like a show of hands by who has spoken at prior meetings? And

who has never spoken at prior meetings? Okay, thank you. Okay, how about a
ten minute break?

From: [Eddie Ogburn](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2006 3:27:08 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern-

Please consider disc golf as a part of the Master Plan. I was born and raised in Raleigh and have played disc golf for quite a while now. I have seen disc golf enjoyed by many people of all ages. The two courses in Raleigh, Cedar Hills Rotary Park and Kentwood Park, are now overcrowded with disc golfers. We are in dire need of another course. Disc golf is environmentally friendly and low impact. We enjoy rough terrain and many trees. The cost of putting in a disc golf course is minor. All that's needed is 18 tee pads and a target for each hole. There is little to no maintenance involved with the upkeep of the course. It will bring joy to people for years to come. I hope you consider this great sport in your master plan.

Thank you for your time,

Eddie Ogburn
Raleigh Resident
Disc Golfer

From: [Stephen Johnson](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, May 19, 2006 10:52:18 AM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the development of Forest Ridge Park into a park that will serve the community. I also am in full support of a disc golf course in this park, and hope that it comes to fruition during the Phase I development. I live about 5 miles from the area, and my family and I love to play disc golf as a family. It provides us with an activity that is cheap, not time-consuming, and just plain fun. We have grown as a family playing this sport over the last 2 years since we have discovered it, and would really appreciate a park closer to our home than Cedar Hills Rotary Park, where we have to go now to play. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Stephen Johnson

From: jackdisc16@bellsouth.net
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, May 19, 2006 2:01:07 PM
Attachments:

I saw that disc golf was included in the master plan for this park and want to offer support for this addition. The city's other courses are becoming overused and a new course would be greatly appreciated. I hope that it makes phase one of the park.

2005 Amateur World Champion

Jack Schmalfeld

From: [Ben Williams](#)
To: parkplan@ci.raleigh.nc.us;
CC:
Subject: disc golf
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2006 3:26:50 PM
Attachments:

Hi- I live near the park & my neighbor,room-mate,girlfriend & my dog all vote YES on the proposal for an 18 hole disc golf course. City life can be tough at times but parks can be a great stress reducer when the have the proper amentities. Thanks for your consideration! Ben Williams

From: [Susan Peich](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Master Plan - dock and boathouse
Date: Monday, May 22, 2006 9:45:02 AM
Attachments:

Committee Members,

I fully support plans to put in a low-profile dock for paddling, rowing and canoeing at Forest Ridge Park. Having this facility would make these sports more accessible in North Raleigh, as opposed to them only being accessible at Lake Wheeler (too far away!!)

I also support plans for a boathouse that would be able to store rowing shells (the longest being 62'), and possibly canoes and kayaks (don't know how much demand there is to store canoes and kayaks in a lakeside boathouse, since they can easily be transported by car. Rowing shells do not allow for this type of transport, so they need to be stored at the body of water where they will be used.)

Overall, I would like to see a park happen soon along Falls Lake. There are many "general" parks at certain points on the lake for picnicing and fishing, but those areas don't offer much else. In fact, they are boring. A park with running and biking trails, frisbee golf, playgrounds (desperately needed in this area of North Raleigh), and other such activities would help draw a diverse number of people to North Raleigh and in turn, provide a sense of community among its residents.

Susan Peich
Wakefield Plantation

AOL buddyname: ssnpch

Lilypie Baby Ticker

From: Labsulliv@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Master Plan Comment
Date: Monday, May 22, 2006 9:52:01 AM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

Knowing that the planning phases for the Forest Ridge facility are upon us, I am writing to solicit your support for the park to have facilities for the growing number of rowers in this area. Specifically, please support the inclusion of:

1. A low-profile floating dock that can be used to launch rowing shells
2. A boathouse large enough to store rowing shells

This future focused Forest Ridge Facility will absolutely be a draw for rowers in the Triangle, and proactive inclusion of these rowing necessities will only enhance the number of nature respecting users in this park.

Best regards,

Lynn A. Sullivan

From: [zophia rendon](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, May 22, 2006 4:26:14 PM
Attachments:

Hello,
I live in North Raleigh and I am excited about Forest Ridge plans. I would like to see a low-profile floating dock that can be used to launch rowing shells and a boathouse large enough to store rowing shells. I understand dues or fees may apply for usage.
Thanks,
Zophia Rendon

Yahoo! Messenger with Voice. [Make PC-to-Phone Calls](#) to the US (and 30+ countries) for 2¢/min or less.

From: Nshulby@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006 9:20:46 PM
Attachments:

Please make Forest Ridge Park a reality!

The Raleigh residents of Wakefield Plantation firmly believe that Forest Ridge Park was always a part of the master plan. Most of us bought in Wakefield Plantation because of the wonderful lifestyle promised by the three local schools and the proximity of the proposed metro park. We bought into that lifestyle...a lifestyle where children and families could walk to school and walk to and play in a large park that bordered a beautiful lake. We continue to pay taxes to the City of Raleigh with the full expectation that all of the children and families of Raleigh would soon be enjoying the benefits of a metro park located on the shores of Falls Lake.

Everyone who purchased property in Wakefield Plantation, including those who purchased in Wake Forest near the proposed park, were aware that this wonderful amenity was coming prior to the purchase of their properties. Large maps of the entire development were prominently displayed in all of the Wakefield Plantation sales offices. These maps clearly showed the location of the proposed park, its access roads (Old 98) and the park's amenities such as trails, fields, amphitheaters and gazebos. The real estate agents operating in North Raleigh were aware that this park was part of the long term development of the area prior to our arrival in 2002. Thus, the vocal minority that opposes the development of the park bought their homes with full knowledge and understanding that this park was to be developed and that OLD 98 would be the main access road into the park.

Quite frankly, we don't understand why it has not been developed to date. Furthermore, we are proud of the hard work that we, the citizens of North Raleigh, did to ensure that this park was part of the successful bond referendum. We find it offensive that a very small minority living outside the City of Raleigh has garnered the attention of new representatives when, we, the majority, have been actively engaged in the process of bringing this park to reality for the past several years.

Forest Ridge Park is part of lifestyle that people in Wakefield bought into and are anxiously awaiting to enjoy. Please fully develop Forest Ridge as soon as possible and allow the residents in Raleigh to realize the lifestyle that we believed was always a part of the master plan of Wakefield Plantation. Since when has the master plan been up for discussion? The people of Raleigh voted on this via the parks and greenways referendum. Their's was a loud and vocal "YES" to the park.

Sincerely,

Bill and Nancy Shulby
12317 Camberwell Court
Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 488-6105

From: Cdisc@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006 9:43:32 PM
Attachments:

Dear Committee Members,

I would ask you to seriously consider having disc golf in the first phase of Forest Ridge park's development.

The Raleigh Area Disc League has 18 targets available to use right now. We could have a course playable within two weeks of the approval to use the land at little or no cost to the city.

Raleigh has had no additional 18 hole disc golf courses since 1984 and the heavy use of the two existing courses is evidence of the sport's growth in Raleigh.

Disc golf is enjoyed by all age groups (I'm pushing 50), is low cost for the participant and very low cost for the city.

Raleigh's other disc golf courses are used weekly throughout the year, even in the coldest months. A course at Forest Ridge will also be used every week of every month through out the year.

A course (as little as 20 acres) can be put on land that is hilly and/or densely wooded, is in the flood plain or is otherwise less desirable and disc golf has very low impact on wildlife.

Thank you for considering the addition of disc golf to Forest Ridge park. The thousands of disc golfers in Raleigh will thank you as well.

sincerely,
Craig Ramsdell
Board Member Raleigh Area Disc League
www.radl.biz

712 Coventry Ct., Raleigh NC 27609 919-633-0133

From: PFMTNBIKE@wmconnect.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest ridge park
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2006 10:06:06 PM
Attachments:

Just wanted to voice my opinion that I am in favor of up to 20 miles of trails in forest ridge park. I have heard of concerns about the wildlife, but if anyone concerned would stroll thru Crabtree lake park I think they would be amazed at the deer and squirrels running everywhere.

thanks,

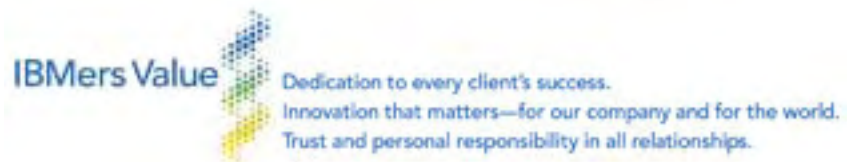
Pat Farrell

From: [Sandy R Nelson](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject:
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 9:02:05 AM
Attachments:

To Whom it May Concern- I have lived in Raleigh all my life, and love the Falls Lake Area. It would be really nice if they could put in a 18 hole disc golf course in the Forest Ridge Park.

Thanks,

Sandy R. Nelson
[WW OCM Manager](#)
IBM Integrated Supply
Chain
919-543-2282 t/l
441-2282 here
srnelson@us.ibm.com



From: [Paul Stradley](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 9:26:40 AM
Attachments:

I would like the planning board to know that I think they are doing a great job with Forest Ridge. I would also like them to know that I am looking forward to using the park. I am a mountain biker and I appreciate the inclusion of bike trails in the plans. I would love to see even more trails added. There is room for a lot more mileage. Please consider expanding the trail system as much as possible.

Thanks you,
Paul Stradley

From: john.lisa@btitelecom.net
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 11:03:50 AM
Attachments:

Dear Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board,

The purpose of this communication is to voice my support for the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan in general and to reinforce the importance of several specific elements within the plan. Knowing something about me helps establish a context for you to better understand why I believe that the Master Plan is focused squarely on target.

I grew up in Raleigh, graduated from Sanderson High School in 1974, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1978, and then returned to Raleigh in 1982 to begin a career and a family. I have been a resident of Raleigh and currently live in Wakefield Plantation. I developed a love for the outdoors over the years through hiking, backpacking and camping trips in the Appalachians, Cascades, Sierras, and Himalayas. My current interests are fishing, bicycling and canoeing. I have fished from the shore of the proposed Park and with my fifteen year old son, found the grave markers, cemetery plot and chimney hearth. I also began serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 104 about four years ago.

Volunteering with the Boy Scouts has allowed me to share my passion for nature with the young men that will become tomorrow's leaders. It also underscores the need for public parks, group camping sites, overnight centers and educational facilities that provide the appropriate environment where we can demonstrate to them how to become stewards of a precious resource. Forest Ridge Park, as planned, meets these needs perfectly.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
John T. Williams
2001 Garden Wall Court
Raleigh, NC 27614

John.Lisa@btitelecom.net

P.S. My wife and I walked the greenway between Lassiter Mill and Raleigh Boulevard last Sunday. The boardwalks were fantastic and you are to be commended. You have whetted my appetite for the greenway between Falls Dam and Horseshoe Park. Please feel free to contact me if I can be used in some way for that section.

From: [David P. Bender, AICP](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 11:13:48 AM
Attachments: [dbender.vcf](#)

I support 100% the development of the mountain bike trails in the proposed Forest Ridge Park and I encourage your support as well.
Thanks,
David

From: [Lori Groninger](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Comment about Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 11:42:15 AM
Attachments:

The Forest Ridge Park will be a genuine asset to the community. I've encountered much enthusiasm about it's creation from Wakefield residents. As a consistent user of the area's parks, trails and open space to hike, bike and walk my dog, I have often lamented the danger of hunters at Falls Lake, (especially when I'm walking golden retriever that could easily be mistaken for a deer from a distance)and the trash left there by who knows who, including broken bottles due to no organized maintenance. A planned park will be a delight to residents as well as others. I come from the Rockies where enthusiasm for the outdoors abounds. Residential areas near a park such as Forest Ridge will get a great return on an investment they didn't even make since they don't pay Raleigh taxes. Their location will be so desirable. People who use such areas by far and away respect the park by cleaning and following rules because they love using it. Let's support this wonderful addition to the parks of Raleigh.

Respectfully,

Lori and Gerry Groninger
Wakefield Residents

From: [brian and cindi](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 11:51:26 AM
Attachments:

Hello,

My name is Brian Williford. I have been an active member of the Mountain biking community since 1990. I was a founding member of NCFats, the first mountain bike club in the Triangle. With NCFats, I participated in the layout, construction, and maintenance of Lake Crabtree County Park in Wake county, in the early to mid-nineties. When I moved to Durham, I saw a need for mountain biking there as well. I was a founding member of DOMBO, Durham Orange Mountain Biking Organization. With DOMBO, I participated in the layout, construction, and maintenance of the Little River County Park in Durham and Orange Counties. Now, I am a member of TORC, the Triangle Off Road Cyclist, which enveloped all of the local mountain biking clubs. I also am a member of IMBA, International Mountain Biking Association. I am an IMBA trained trail builder. I have been building mountain bike trails for over 15 years.

I have moved back to Wake county. I now live in Wake Forest, less than 5 miles from the proposed site of the Forest Ridge Park. I plan to be a integral part of this process. I have been to several meetings thus far. I urge the Committee to consider between 15 and 20 miles of mountain bike trail. If Raleigh had to pay for the construction of the mountain bike trail, it would cost around \$8,000 per mile. At that price, there wouldn't be any trail. We offer a very inexpensive solution to the proposed park. TORC is comprised of very dedicated individuals. And we have proven through our many relationships with County governments that we can provide a service to the communities we live in. Please consider allowing TORC to build the proposed maximum of 20 miles of mountain bike trails.

Thank you,

Brian Williford

From: [Zelasko Amanda](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 11:52:40 AM
Attachments:

I am in support of creating the Forest Ridge Park. As an avid hiker and mountain biker I am thrilled with the possibility of new trails. Trails will allow individuals such as myself to enjoy and appreciate nature while staying fit. Such trails are also wonderful for family activities and can help to interest children in outdoor activities. As a mountain biker I would like to see 15-20 miles of trails.

I am also enthusiastic about proper facilities such as restrooms, garbage collection, picnic shelters, disk golf, etc. I am also in support of adequate facilities for adventure education.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Amanda Zelasko
Master's Degree Student
NCSU
Soil Science Dept.

Do You Yahoo!?

Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
<http://mail.yahoo.com>

From: zacekrussella@johndeere.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 1:38:01 PM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

Information regarding Forest Ridge Park just recently got around to the volleyball community. However, along with my fellow volleyball players in this email petition drive, I feel it's important that I express my opinion of the 2 sand volleyball courts that are part of the master plan and to show my interest in using these courts. Past history has suggested that the concerns of volleyball players regarding new facilities are NOT properly addressed and we would like that to not be the case with this particular project.

As a group, [vh1vball](http://vh1vball.com) would like to offer assistance with any planning and development of the courts so to prevent the construction of courts that will end up not getting utilized. At this time I'd like to make the following points as it pertains to the proposed volleyball courts. These recommendations should require very minor reworking of the current design while ensuring that the sand court facilities are actually used:

*Cost: The cost of materials for a quality sand volleyball court typically range from only \$6000-8000, which is minimal when compared to other planned amenities at the park.

*Number of Courts - Minimum of 4: Beach volleyball is a fast growing sport and we are in dire need of more quality courts. As any player can attest to, only with larger, quality facilities do people come and actually use the courts though. We also have a growing need in the area for locations

that can support organized events such as leagues and tournaments, which require more than a couple courts. The Vh1vball organization is establishing a juniors beach volleyball program this year which adds to the need for more courts.

*Lakeside Beach Location: Emphasizing the beach in beach volleyball, it is important to incorporate the proposed courts in a larger than currently proposed beach area on Falls Lake as this will draw people together to a central location for water and beach-side activities. Plus, as the sport continues to grow, expansion opportunities can exist down the road when situated in an open beach environment.

*Good Construction Material: This includes quality sand, nets, and court lines. Vh1vball can provide recommendations on type and supplier if requested. Also, poles should be adjustable to allow play at the different net heights for juniors, women, and men. This is extremely important if any thoughts of having organized play at the courts are to be considered.

*Proper Shelter: Often neglected but of valuable importance is some sort of shelter with seating that can serve as a break location during games. The idea is commonly incorporated at tennis parks and should be adapted for volleyball courts as well. Shelters can also serve as buffers between courts.

Benefits? If you're asking the question of what benefits beach volleyball courts on the beach at Falls Lake can provide, consider these points:

*The park gets used - People appreciate the recreational opportunity. Volleyball is a draw even for people who are not players, especially in a beach setting.

*The beach stays clean - Players don't want to play in trash or have to watch out for broken glass. They clean up the beach and make sure the surrounding areas stay clean.

*Revenue - Leagues and organized events can bring in some level of revenue for the city.

In summary, I hope this makes the committee aware of how valuable having multiple, well-designed, and located beach volleyball courts at Falls Lake would be for the Raleigh and Triangle area. We hope that these courts will

be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Russell A. Zacek
zacekrussella@johndeere.com

From: jlreaser@ncsu.edu
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 1:39:43 PM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

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In summary, I hope this makes the committee aware of how valuable having multiple, well-designed, and located beach volleyball courts at Falls Lake would be for the Raleigh and Triangle area. We hope that these courts will

be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Jeffrey Reaser
jlreaser@ncsu.edu

From: [Brandon Brown](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:04:21 PM
Attachments:

I was reading about the proposed Forest Ridge Park plan you had on your website and I wanted you to know I wholly approve of exactly this kind of public use plan.

I'm most interested in the mountain biking trails that you might possibly have there, since there really are no public Raleigh mountain bike trails. I think Crabtree is a State run park, and we need more and more bike trails.

Thanks again for considering these trails in your overall plan and I'll be excited waiting to see how it comes out!

Brandon Brown
4633 Timberhurst Dr
Raleigh, NC

From: jkeen3@gmail.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:09:32 PM
Attachments:

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Jessica Keenan
jkeenan3@gmail.com

From: lmrobins@gmail.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarey@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:10:41 PM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Lance Robinson
lmrobins@gmail.com

From: mjnaleva@earthlink.net
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarey@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:11:13 PM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Mark Nalevanko
mjnaleva@earthlink.net

From: camato@wcpss.net
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:16:28 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a WCPSS physical education instructor who teaches the children the life-long sport of disc golf. The children really enjoy this activity, realizing all the physical, social, and emotional benefits that go along with it. I have had children continue to play this sport well after it had been introduced to them. Currently there are not a lot of disc golf courses in Wake County. Here is an opportunity to add a disc course in Northern Wake that will benefit people from 8 to 80!

Thank you for your consideration,
Charles Amato
Brooks MM Elem.

From: [Paul Cunnien](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Master Plan Comment
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 3:21:39 PM
Attachments:

I want to see facilities available at this new park for rowing. This would require low profile floating docks suitable for launching rowing shells and a boathouse suitable for storing a variety of racing and rowing shells along with their associated support equipment.

Paul E. Cunnien
Senior Supervisor
Manufacturing Sciences-Purification
Biogen Idec
paul.cunnien@biogenidec.com
Tel: 919 993 1598

From: susanmoore13@yahoo.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarey@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 3:47:17 PM
Attachments:

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Susan Moore
susanmoore13@yahoo.com

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jmcgann3983@yahoo.com

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Brian McKay
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*Good Construction Material: This includes quality sand, nets, and court lines. Vh1vball can provide recommendations on type and supplier if requested. Also, poles should be adjustable to allow play at the different net heights for juniors, women, and men. This is extremely important if any thoughts of having organized play at the courts are to be considered.

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*Revenue - Leagues and organized events can bring in some level of revenue for the city.

In summary, I hope this makes the committee aware of how valuable having multiple, well-designed, and located beach volleyball courts at Falls Lake would be for the Raleigh and Triangle area. We hope that these courts will

be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Jacqueline McDonald
sistaz2day@yahoo.com

From: [Spencer Horn](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 4:38:41 PM
Attachments:

To Whom it concerns,

I wanted to thank you for the considerations you have taken towards the MTB community. I am a member of TORC and am in full support of your current plans and really appreciate the consideration for 20miles of trails with-in this park system.

Sincerely,
Spencer L Horn

--

If the opponent comes, then greet him; if he goes, then send him off. To five add five and make ten; to two add eight and make ten. By this you create harmony. Judge the situation, know the heart; the great is beyond ten feet square, the small enters the tiniest atom. The action may be fierce, but when facing what is in front of you, do not move the mind.

-Kiichi Hogen

From: MCMECCA@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Park Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 5:33:51 PM
Attachments:

Dear Sirs,

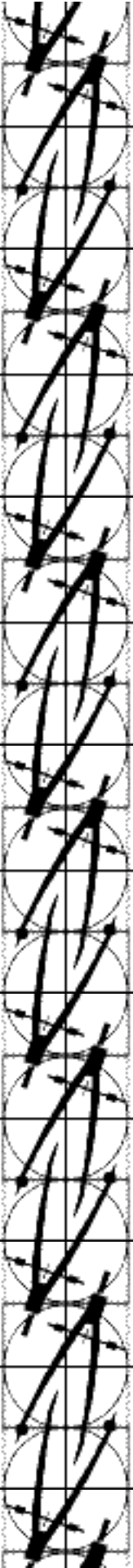
As a 49 year old camper, hiker and biker I feel the need to state my views about the park plan as follows. While I am very pleased that the area will be designated as a park I feel that the minimum 20 miles of mountain biking trail should be mandatory. It will have minimal impact on the land and will benefit the greatest number of voting taxpayers who already constantly use the out of doors. Thank you for your consideration and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Mac Dodge

James M. Dodge
Precision Franchising
Payroll / Personnel / I.T.

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.



From: [Vaughan, Allen](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Mt. Bike Plan for Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 5:37:30 PM
Attachments: [Vaughan, Allen.vcf](#)

I wanted to thank you for the efforts you have taken towards the MTB community. I am in full support of your current plans. I really appreciate the consideration for 20miles of trails with-in this park system. You guys rock!!

Sincerely,

Allen Vaughan
Product Release Services
Misys Healthcare Systems
EMR Help Desk 1-888-404-8404
MISYS Help Desk 1-800-877-5678 ext 1535
Fax 1-919-844-3890
allen.vaughan@misyshealthcare.com

"Views expressed by the author do not necessarily represent those of Misys Healthcare Systems' management or Board of Directors"

Misys Knowledge Base - www.misyshealthcare.com -

comprehensive support information, documents, and articles.

**The Misys Healthcare Systems Annual Conference & Expo
will be held July 27 - 29 at the
Reno Hilton in
"America's Adventure Place"
Reno, Nevada!
www.misyshealthcare.com/annualconference**

From: [Lancaster, Justin](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 7:45:18 AM
Attachments:

I just wanted to say that I'm excited to hear that you're considering a disc golf course for this park

Justin Lancaster
MIS Specialist



4011 WestChase Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 833-7152
(919) 833 1828 (Fax)

From: capert@hotmail.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 9:38:06 AM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

Information regarding Forest Ridge Park just recently got around to the volleyball community. However, along with my fellow volleyball players in this email petition drive, I feel it's important that I express my opinion of the 2 sand volleyball courts that are part of the master plan and to show my interest in using these courts. Past history has suggested that the concerns of volleyball players regarding new facilities are NOT properly addressed and we would like that to not be the case with this particular project.

As a group, [vh1vball](http://vh1vball.com) would like to offer assistance with any planning and development of the courts so to prevent the construction of courts that will end up not getting utilized. At this time I'd like to make the following points as it pertains to the proposed volleyball courts. These recommendations should require very minor reworking of the current design while ensuring that the sand court facilities are actually used:

*Cost: The cost of materials for a quality sand volleyball court typically range from only \$6000-8000, which is minimal when compared to other planned amenities at the park.

*Number of Courts - Minimum of 4: Beach volleyball is a fast growing sport and we are in dire need of more quality courts. As any player can attest to, only with larger, quality facilities do people come and actually use the courts though. We also have a growing need in the area for locations

that can support organized events such as leagues and tournaments, which require more than a couple courts. The Vh1vball organization is establishing a juniors beach volleyball program this year which adds to the need for more courts.

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In summary, I hope this makes the committee aware of how valuable having multiple, well-designed, and located beach volleyball courts at Falls Lake would be for the Raleigh and Triangle area. We hope that these courts will

be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time and consideration for a worthy project! Caper Thomas 406 Silvergrove Dr. Cary, NC 27513

Caper Thomas
capert@hotmail.com

From: jeffsummers@earthlink.net
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 9:57:51 AM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

Information regarding Forest Ridge Park just recently got around to the volleyball community. However, along with my fellow volleyball players in this email petition drive, I feel it's important that I express my opinion of the 2 sand volleyball courts that are part of the master plan and to show my interest in using these courts. Past history has suggested that the concerns of volleyball players regarding new facilities are NOT properly addressed and we would like that to not be the case with this particular project.

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Jeff Summers
jeffsummers@earthlink.net

From: homer451@hotmail.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbarley@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Firefighters" Burned Children Fund Request
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 10:03:22 AM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

ethan roseborough
homer451@hotmail.com

From: [Bill Troop](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Mountain bike trails
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 3:25:00 PM
Attachments:

I live in North Raleigh and would like to see mountain bike trails included in the park plan. Currently I use the trails at Lake Crabtree park and Beaver Dam. I would love trails actually in the city of Raleigh.

Thank you,
Bill Troop
IBM Engineering & Technology Services
RTP, NC 27709
e-mail: troop@us.ibm.com
phone: 919-254-2695 (t/l 444)

From: mikebaze@aol.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); tparrott@hadenstanzial.com; Momfarrell@aol.com;
gbbarley@msn.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Comments
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006 3:54:19 PM
Attachments:

Forest Ridge Planning Committee,

Being unable to attend the last meeting I would, again, like to submit an idea that I hope you can accomplish. I live at 2117 Rolling Rock Rd. in Wakefield. We back up to the lake and our concern is the closeness of the trails to our property. A suggestion that I have is to ask if a bridge be installed from one point to the other (this can be easily seen on a map). This would prevent a trail that would have to come way up in the woods, close to our property, to cross the creek. This area on the water is also very visual and would be enjoyable to trail users to look out across the lake as they walk the bridge.

Thanks for the consideration.

Sincerely, Mike Bazemore

From: [Cindy Baldwin](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Draft Master Plan
Date: Friday, May 26, 2006 1:03:31 PM
Attachments:

Dear Committee,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for developing a park at the end of Old 98 to balance the development in that area. I realize a great deal of effort goes into getting the bond firstly, and the site development or master plan.

I did just recently return from a 4 day weekend in Cleveland, Ohio. I was greatly impressed with their Metro Park system. On a 50 degree day, I saw many people out using the park. The usage was many cyclists using the paths as well as many others just walking or jogging. There were no large structures or grand displays. The park was a wooded area in keeping with nature.

The area encompassed hundreds of acres with dirt paths, some paved roads as well as picnic areas.

My request is to keep the plan simple as well. With the nation's concern of obesity and high stress levels, let us focus on exercise and quiet areas of reflection. This area has a focus of family gatherings, and I would like an area to ride with my children or walk with my husband. The large building proposed does not focus on family, but more time away from family since those buildings are more than likely to be used for corporations or instructional purposes.

Lastly, with the tight budgets, and overcrowding issues we face with schools, and high gas taxes, should we not use our tax dollars for future bonds wisely. Parks absolutely, further development of those parks, absolutely not.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. Baldwin
(919) 556-6887

From: chrisalmstead@yahoo.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarey@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, May 26, 2006 1:40:10 PM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

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be considered a high priority as part of the Lakeside Center complex.

Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Christina Almstead
chrisalmstead@yahoo.com

From: [James Rhew](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Friday, May 26, 2006 1:42:01 PM
Attachments:

Members of the Forest Ridge Master Plan Committee,

I am pleased to see mountain bike trails in the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan. Raleigh currently does not provide this resource to the mountain biking community and this is a most welcome step toward serving the mountain biking community. I am further excited to see a trail length of up to 20 miles, a width restriction, consideration of sustainability, and especially cooperation with the Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC). This shows that the committee has taken the time to understand what the mountain biking community would actually use and support. Thank you!

Sincerely
James Rhew
Webmaster
Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC)
www.torc-nc.org

From: [rpowell7](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Friday, May 26, 2006 5:34:11 PM
Attachments:

I just wanted to submit a couple of comments regarding the proposed Forest Ridge Park.

First, thanks to everyone involved in taking on this project. It is a worthy effort to plan recreational space for our growing community!

Second, I was pleased to hear that mountain bike trails were part of the plans for Forest Ridge. This is absolutely wonderful news, and putting these trails in the plan up front is absolutely the way to go. As the Parks Advisory Board is aware, mountain biking is a very popular sport in the Triangle area, and it's important to find legal, maintainable trails to meet the demand. You'll find mountain bikers to be a very active group in helping to maintain what they use (namely the trails). This is a group that understands the value of our natural resources and is willing to give back to save them. My only request, along with many of my peers, is that you keep the mileage of the trails at 20 miles, maximum.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to enjoying the new park!

Ron Powell
Member, Triangle Off Road Cyclists (TORC)

From: b_meisel@hotmail.com
To: [ParkPlan](#); mfarrell@onsport.com; gbbarey@msn.com; gstanziale@hadenstanziale.com;
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park
Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 11:09:48 AM
Attachments:

Dear Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee,

I'm writing as a member of vh1vball.com, a large outdoor volleyball organization based in Wake County. We hold outdoor tournaments and share volleyball information among over 600 members and growing.

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Thank you for your time. The director of vh1vball.com, Vaughn Hastings, can be reached at vh1vball@yahoo.com if any follow-up discussions are requested.

Barry Meisel
b_meisel@hotmail.com

From: [Pat Johnston](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 9:40:56 PM
Attachments:

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a Wake County resident living in close proximity to the proposed Forest Ridge Park I have the following concerns:

- There is great disparity between the public survey that shows the public's expressed desire for a nature-oriented Park versus the Master Plan's proposal for construction of a much larger scaled metro park, including construction of large buildings and facilities to house an Adventure Headquarters.
- The lack of partnering with existing community facilities and resources like Camp Kanata, Blue Jay Point County Park, and the local YMCAs, which would allow the allocated bond monies to be used to develop other Park elements. These community resources can provide the same proposed services and programs that are scheduled to be housed and administered in the proposed buildings and facilities in Forest Ridge Park.
- The \$4M bond was approved based on the verbiage that the "development of Forest Ridge Park will include the design work, infrastructure elements, trail and open space preservation", not the Adventure Headquarters for the Park Department.

I asked the PRGAB to re-evaluate the Forest Ridge Park Draft Master Plan so that the recommendations they provide to the City Council will be logical, practical and, most importantly, reflective of what the taxpayers truly want and were promised.

Sincerely,

Patricia Johnston
6569 Wakefalls Drive
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-606-6964 (cell)

From: [Jim Powell](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC: [Chuck Rinker;](#)
Subject: Forest Ridge Public park plans
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 11:30:11 AM
Attachments:

Dear PRGAB:

My family and I live near the proposed Forest Ridge Park entrance off of Old Highway 98.

I request that the plan **not** include the building(s) and instead be used for what is needed in our area; nature trails, bike trails and a small canoe rental/launch area. I strongly am against the large building(s) being proposed.

There appears to be a disparity between the public survey which shows the public's expressed desire for a nature-oriented Park versus the current Master Plan's proposal for construction of a much larger scale "metro park" including construction of large buildings and facilities to house an Adventure Headquarter. Please do not allow the construction of this facility. It is a waste of public money as existing facilities at other parks in the area meet all current and future needs and are currently under-utilized.

There appears to be a lack of partnering with existing community facilities and resources such as Camp Kanata, Blue Jay Point County Park and our local YMCAs. A small effort to work with these other parks and organizations would allow the allocated bond monies to be used to develop other more needed and unique Park elements.

The \$4M bond was approved based on the verbiage that the "development of Forest Ridge Park will include the design work, infrastructure elements, trail and open space preservation", and **not** an Adventure Headquarters for the Park Department. In my opinion this would be an incorrect use of public money should that large building be built.

Sincerely,

Jim

--

Jim Powell
Wake Forest, NC
jehpowell@nc.rr.com
919-562-9132 (h)
919-562-9133 (w)

--

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From: [Ernest Davis](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Master plan looks great, particularly the mountain bike trails!
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 4:34:03 PM
Attachments:

To Whom it may concern:

I know you're busy, so I'll keep this short -- please write back if further discussion would be helpful . . .

I've been following the development of this plan with growing interest through my connections to the local mountain biking community (TORC) -- so the proposal for "20 miles" of singletrack for mountain bikes is particularly appealing. The entire plan as written is very attractive and would well serve my family's interests in the outdoors in general. Among the activities mentioned in the Forest Ridge plan, we enjoy biking, hiking, volleyball, tennis, picnicking and boating, roughly in that order of frequency.

Thanks for all your hard work, and keep up the good work. We look forward to enjoying this park!

Ernest E Davis
901 Northwoods Dr.
Cary NC 27513.

From: [Bill Camp](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 4:40:46 PM
Attachments:

I am writing to make personal comments on the master concept plan for the proposed Forest Ridge city park on Falls Lake. I spoke at the Parks Advisory Board on May 18th on behalf of the Triangle Off-Road Cyclists, as is my duty as the president of this chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycling Association. I wanted to take this opportunity to speak for myself and my wife, Christine Camp, and give our comments as citizens of Raleigh residing at 4601 Joyner Place.

We fully support the master concept plan in its current form, including but not limited to, the adventure center, overnight lodge, group camping, paddling facilities, ropes course, hiking trails and mountain biking trails. Once fully implemented, this will truly be the finest outdoor recreation park in the entire state of North Carolina. As outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy biking, hiking and paddling, I'm sure that we will be frequent visitors to Forest Ridge Park whenever it opens. We would ask that all elements be left as shown in the current plan.

I also would like to speak towards the negative comments from several of the neighbors who question the need for such features as the ropes course, adventure center, overnight lodge, etc. due to their expense. Many of these neighbors would like the city to partner with private and/or religious based organizations, but they neglect to mention that venues such as Camp Kanata would be unavailable for city programs during the summer months. In other words, when the demand for their use is at its very greatest. It seems that this approach would do little to serve the needs of the citizens of Raleigh. Also, several spoke against the cost of these elements citing the limited amount of funds set aside for Phase I of the park. What they failed to mention in their comments is the fact that there are many different sources of grants that can be used to leverage the city's available funds substantially. It troubles me that these facts were not addressed at the meeting on May 18th, though I'm sure that the city is thoroughly aware of these facts, and that the Parks Advisory Board will have all these pertinent facts before them when making their recommendations to the council.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinion.

Sincerely,

Bill Camp, CKD

President

Triangle Design Kitchens, Inc.

919-787-0256

919-787-0274 Fax

919-906-2244 Mobile

bcamp@triangledesignkitchens.com

From: [Ed Teague](#)
To: [Van Haaften, Mary;](#)
CC:
Subject: FW: Forest Ridge
Date: Friday, June 09, 2006 10:05:05 AM
Attachments:

Mary,

Per our discussion, attached is the e-mail I send last week.

Regards,
Ed Teague

From: Ed Teague [mailto:eteague@brightviewtechnologies.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 12:24 PM
To: 'parkplan@ci.raleigh.nc.us'
Subject: Forest Ridge

Below is a copy of the comments I made at the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board meeting on May 18th.

Comment on the Forest Ridge Park Master Plan

Let me first say that I am in favor of a park at Forest Ridge and there are many features in the current park plan that I support. My comments tonight specifically address the park planning process and the priorities reflected in the current park plan.

With respect to the planning process - At the initial Forest Ridge Park planning committee meeting, it was stated by the park department staff that there were no preconceived ideas with respect to the proposed Forest Ridge master plan design. In fact, elements of the Forest Ridge Park appear to have been predetermined before the planning committee was ever formed. Evidence of this is contained in the Raleigh Parks Plan adopted on May 4, 2004 – a year before the committee was

formed. Page 106 of the plan contains the following statement, “P&R bond monies have been identified for a whitewater park at Falls Dam and a possible Adventure Facility at Forest Ridge Park.”

The objective of the “new” park planning process is an honorable one in that it seeks to gain greater public input than the former process. I submit, however, that execution of the process is flawed and needs to be re-evaluated. To begin with, committee membership had substantial representation by individuals directly or indirectly associated with or closely aligned with the parks department. In addition, the planning consultants, who are responsible for architectural design and engineering, strongly supported the parks and recreation department’s agenda. The inputs of committee members representing local community feedback in many cases was discounted due to their proximity to the park and were literally accused of being “self serving” – when in fact, the evidence suggests that the process has been steered to achieve the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Department.

With respect to the current master plan, while some progress was made in the last committee meeting to align priorities in the plan with public interest expressed in a survey conducted by the Parks Department itself, the fact remains that the current plan still reflects a high priority on the Adventure Program. This program will require a major portion of the current \$4M budget.

Data supporting strong demand for an adventure program in the Raleigh area has not been produced. In fact, the Park Plan I referenced earlier indicates a relatively low level of demand or usage for adventure programs. What the survey did indicate was a strong interest in a low impact, nature-based park containing trails, biking, picnicking, etc.

In light of the obvious and strong desire on the part of the Parks and Recreation Department to offer an adventure program, a creative proposal was made in a motion to the Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee which involved partnering with Camp Kanata. Camp Kanata, located just 4.5 miles from the Forest Ridge site, is a privately funded, non-profit organization which offers many of the adventure elements

proposed for inclusion in Forest Ridge. Such a partnership would deliver the adventure experience for which the parks department believes there is demand and at the same time it would save tax dollars that could be used to deliver other elements within the park. This motion was defeated - yet partnering with non-profit and private concerns to deliver park related services is expressly recommended in the executive summary that was supplied by Parks and Recreation in an early committee meeting.

Specifically, I propose the following:

1. Revise the park plan to be a simpler, nature-based park as opposed to one that is centered on a comprehensive adventure and summer camp program. Focus on park elements with the highest public interest such as trails, biking, picnicking, multi-use areas, etc.
2. Pursue, in earnest, partnership arrangements between Raleigh Parks and Recreation and local organizations such as Camp Kanata and others that already offer similar programs to deliver an adventure program as well as camping and other programs.

I believe this proposal is a win for all. In addition to providing a wonderful nature oriented park for all to enjoy, it would make available an adventure program to the Raleigh area residents who may desire it, while saving the tax payers' money.

Ed Teague
Forest Ridge Planning Committee Member

From: [Martha Svoboda](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Fw: Comments re. Forest Ridge Park
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 4:47:58 PM
Attachments:

I apologize--my original message was returned due to an invalid email address. Please see the following.

Martha Svoboda

----- Original Message -----

From: [Martha Svoboda](#)

To: parkplan@ci.nc.us

Cc: [Pat Pilarinos](#) ; [Mary Alice Farrell](#)

Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2006 10:47 PM

Subject: Comments re. Forest Ridge Park

Dear Park Advisory Board Members:

I am a seven-year resident of Wakefield Estates. My fifteen-year old daughter, an avid rock climber, and I wanted to speak at your recent public hearing, but a last minute conflict arose that prevented us from attending.

As I stated in my public comments at the first public comment session, when we purchased our home, my family was well aware of the existing plans for the "Peninsula Park", which at the time was slated to include a full-service marina and lighted baseball fields. We evaluated the "risks/rewards" of being so close to the eventual park, and, in fact, decided against the purchase of land closer to the park site because, to us, the potential risk of lighted ball fields in our backyard outweighed the potential reward of instead having nature trails and a low-impact park behind us (as would be the case now). It seems incomprehensible to me that the very neighbors who are now speaking out against the park would not have used that same type of risk/reward analysis in light of the common public knowledge of a potential park sited at the end of Old 98.

I hope you realize that the objections raised by this small but well-organized group

do not reflect the attitude of most nearby residents. In addition, I am personally incensed at the way two of the committee members abused the committee process in order to push their own personal agendas—exaggerating program elements and proposals and spreading rumors so that they could generate interest in having other neighbors join them in their personal battle. Their objections continue to evolve—first they had neighbors up in arms over an exaggerated number and location of parking spaces. The other committee members worked to resolve that issue to the benefit of nearby residents. Then they spread rumors that the “amphitheater” was to be used for large rock concerts (again, not true). Time after time they threw out their scare tactics, yet the committee addressed the issue and clarified facts for the public record. Now they are raising issues concerning the size of and need for the public buildings—several of the neighbors/committee members now raising this issue have homes larger than the buildings we are talking about! And what is wrong with having these buildings? They will provide a necessary service and enhance the programs offered at the location. And who really thinks that the City of Raleigh will build these buildings and use up all of the money before there are trails in the park on which to offer their programs?

The rogue committee members have offered up Camp Kanata as an alternative to siting the rock climbing and ropes courses in FR Park. I understand from neighborhood parents that Camp Kanata is so booked up in the summers that the camp has had to scale back the availability of their programs to certain age groups. Furthermore, I am not a member of the YMCA, so the facilities at Camp Kanata—miles away from this park site—would not be available to me for my use. How does the use of Camp Kanata help the folks hoping to use Forest Ridge Park? And where would I be able to go kayaking without the FRP amenities?

As an alternate on the Master Planning Committee for FRP, I sat in on several meetings, especially towards the beginning and the end of the project. I was very impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of the vast majority of the committee members, and I respect their thorough attention to detail and their passion and commitment to the integrity of the park site.

Please also keep in mind that neither my neighbors nor I are residents of the City of Raleigh. Bill Warner stated in his first public comment that “(he) is all for parks; in fact, (he) even voted for this park”. If he did vote on the park issue, I believe he would have done so fraudulently, as at the time, he resided in his home just up the street from mine—clearly not within the Raleigh city jurisdiction. The

residents of the City of Raleigh, many of them from the Wakefield Plantation/
North Raleigh area, are the ones who voted for the park bond and who will
support the park with their city taxes. Please give them the park they asked for!

My family looks forward to hiking, biking, climbing and kayaking in Forest Ridge
Park. Please do all that you can to ensure that FRP, as envisioned in the Master
Plan, becomes a reality!

Respectfully,

Martha Svoboda
6329 Mountain Grove Lane
Wake Forest, NC 27587
marthaj108@nc.rr.com

From: [Kelsey Svoboda](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: In Favor of Forest Ridge Park
Date: Thursday, June 01, 2006 4:58:14 PM
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

Hey, my name is Kelsey Svoboda, I'm fifteen years old and I am in favor of building Forest Ridge Park. I have many reasons for this, but my main reason is that as a rock climber, I would love to have a climbing facility close to my house. I am currently training to be able to climb in the American Bouldering Series down at The Raleigh Rockyard, but it is a half hour drive from my house, so transportation down there can sometimes be a hassle. If there was a facility for me to use nearby for inbetween trips to the Rockyard, I would be able to increase my skill greatly. I am also starting a Climbers Club at my school and we are going to take activity buses to the Rockyard for our meetings. It would be so much easier if there was a facility nearby so that everyone could maybe drive themselves, or the activity buses would at least not have to go as far, therefore saving the school some money.

I know that some of my neighbors are opposed to the idea of having a park, but if they don't like it, they don't have to go. Why should those four people decide for everybody else what they can and cannot do? This park would be most beneficial in so many ways. Not just for the rock climbing, but also just for the exercise and the experience. Obesity is plaguing children at younger and younger ages these days and if these kids had a place to go exercise and do things that they wanted to do, maybe they would lose weight. You'd be helping the kids as well. I think it would be absolutely horrible if you took this opportunity away from everyone. If someone doesn't like it, they don't have to go and that is just fine. But for those of us who really want a park, we don't have the option of going or not if it's not there.

Please, on behalf of hikers, bikers, climbers, and other outdoor sports fanatics everywhere, let us have this park.

Kelsey Rose Svoboda

From: [Tricia Carney](#)
To: [ParkPlan;](#)
CC:
Subject: Forest Ridge Park Plan - Public Comment
Date: Friday, June 02, 2006 1:34:47 PM
Attachments:

Hello,

I attended the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Agenda on Thursday, May 18th at the Jaycee Park Module. It is very exciting to hear about the Forest Ridge Park Master Plans because it looks like an amazing park to have in the North Raleigh area. During the meeting, I made a quick comment about sculling/rowing during the Public Comment. I would like to add some additional comments.

First, Forest Ridge Park location is ideal for sculling/rowing. The park location on Falls Lake has the flat water required for rowing.

Second, there are two essential items needed for sculling/rowing at Forest Ridge Park:

1. A low profile dock, like the dock at Wheeler Lake
2. Boat storage

Thirdly, sculling/rowing is a recreational activity that is growing in popularity. "Rowing may be the fastest growing paddle sport in North America, stealthily increasing in popularity as it offers a sense of adventure." (GreatOutdoors.com) There is a great need and interest to have a low profile dock and boat storage at the Forest Ridge Park location. Also, the Master Plan's Program Elements Voting Results (pg. 36) shows that rowing/sculling received 29 votes, which is only 16 votes lower than the highest vote for Restrooms.

Lastly, rowing is an activity that fits very well into the mission of Forest Ridge Park. Specifically, by incorporating sculling/rowing into the park plan it "promotes healthy and high quality lifestyle by providing diverse recreational and educational activities, including unique outdoor experience where people can learn, discover and explore." (Forest Ridge Park Master Plan, Mission Statement, page 35) Sculling/Rowing would help create the "diverse recreational activity" and "unique experience where people can learn, discover and explore" that Forest Ridge Park is looking for.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. It would be great to be updated on any

additional meeting I can attend about Forest Ridge Park. Thank you very much for your time.

Tricia Carney

Good evening. My name is Deby Pribonic and I am a member of the Forest Ridge Park Planning Committee. After becoming familiar with the committee's purpose which is "To develop a program for a park, which will best meet the needs of the community for which it is intended to serve and that the entire process is designed to optimize public participation"; I read the "Park Master Park Planning Process and the" Executive Summary" cover to cover. I did this in order to fully understand my responsibilities on the committee.

During this Public Input period(May 18,2006), I would like to submit the following report to be part of the record the for the Forest Ridge Master Park Planning.

I would like to invite the PRGA Board to go to the file entitled Raleigh Parks Plan

Appendix_A-G-Final-
Print.pdf

(). The attached document is 145 pages. As you read the reports, I would like to bring attention to several points that supports the position that there is low interest in the Adventure program and to investigate partnering with Camp Kanata:

- + Note page 32 under Goals and Objectives: Goal 8. Encourage private recreation initiatives to supplement public facilities.

- +Note Page 72 definition of Latent Demand and its proper use

- + Note page pages 73 and 74 Table I. This table indicates the interests of Raleigh citizens.

- + Note page 97 Recreation Division; Program Area Comprehensive Plan Report. A list of all the programs evaluated. Including the Adventure Program.

- + Note page 100 a graph entitled Recreation Program Categories for Multiple Ages and Facilities 1999 and 2003. The Adventure program shows no growth and in light that the population of Raleigh has grown 11% from 1999 to 2003(see page 99), interest in the Adventure program has actually gone down.

- + Note the evaluations of all the programs pages 101 to 123. Compare the number of persons participating in the other programs(Nature, Athletic for example) compared to the Adventure program/element. The other program/elements have thousands and some hundred thousands participants verses the 550 participant range for the Adventure Program (relatively a small number).

- + The Adventure program is listed on page 105-106. Note the table of participants for the four quarters of 2002-2003. There is no significant growth in participants, even though they have increases the number of programs. Also note that the report does not share the participation growth of the Adventure program from 1998 to 2002 as it does for most of the other programs/elements. My guess is that there was no growth to be shown. It is also significant that the report indicates the Adventure program has been available since 1984. It is not a new program/element and has had ample opportunity to grow.

- + Note page 106 where it states that " P & R bond, monies have been identified for a whitewater park at Falls Dam and a possible Adventure Facility at Forest Ridge Park". This land was identified to be an Adventure Park at least a year before this planning committee was formed!

- + Page 106 the projections in growth for the Adventure programs in this report is based on "market research and trends in other Recreation Departments, private industry and public support

and interest." I have asked repeatedly to see the Raleigh data that supports these trends. They have shown me data from "challenge courses" from other location and other states (I will send you the data the Park and Rec department gave me). The data the Park and Rec department have given is not applicable to this area. Davis Bell has reported in our committee meeting that in the three years he has run Camp Kananta, his number of participants for his challenge course has remained stable. I also contacted the city of Cary and the data shows that their participation in their challenge course is stable, not growing; 2000 participants in 2004 and 2011 participants in 2005.

I have repeated ask the parks department to supply data that shows significant growth/interest in the local Adventure programs. I have attached two pages of data that the Parks department supplied. The first is shows the growth of Challenge courses four locations other than Raleigh. This data is not relevant to Raleigh and if you look at the overall totals of all the courses, there is no significant change in participation.

The other graph that was supplied by the Park Department (see Attached) show the number of Contact hours= the sum of: Number of attending participants x Total length of program hours. We have a previous graph listed on page of the survey, showing no growth in participants during the 2002-2003 year. So the conclusion is that the increase shown for that year on this graph must be due to the increase in total length of program hours and not participants.

Please take the above information in consideration as you move forward with the planning of Forest Ridge Park.

Deby Pribronic

Challenge Course Participation Levels of Four Existing Programs

City of Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation, WA Established 2000

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,031	1,000	1,350	1,626	5,007

Iredell County Parks and Recreation, NC Established 1985

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,178	1,034	1,389	1,717	5,318

Charleston County Parks and Recreation, SC Established 1985

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	1,666	1,325	1,577	2,317	6,885

Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor Education, VA Established 1985

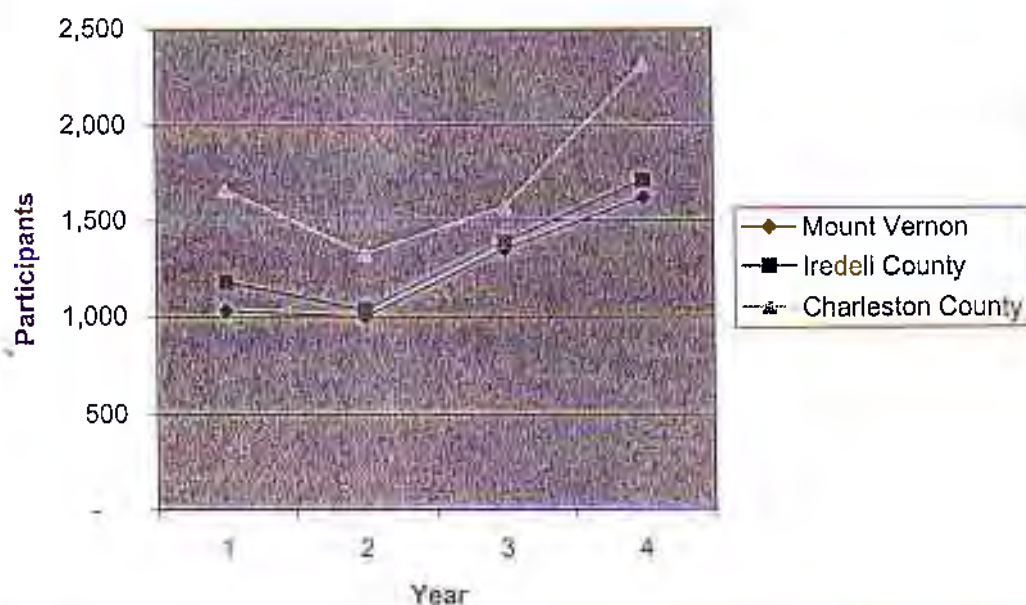
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total Participation
Participants	22,000	21,300	21,500	19,700	84,500

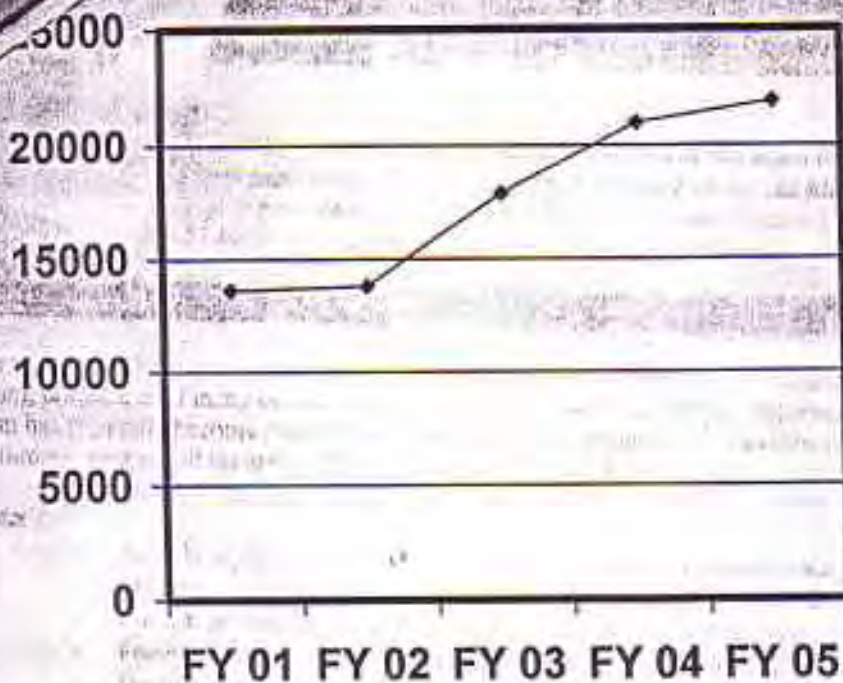
Totals	25,875	24,659	25,816	25,360	101,710
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Notes:

- *The above Challenge Course Programs have sustainable participant levels over the past four years.
- *First three programs have one full time challenge course manager.
- *Hemlock has 8 full time staff for challenge course operations.
- *Hemlock is located close to Washington DC and thus has a large population base.
- *A program at Forest Ridge would likely follow the participation trends of the first three programs.
- *The most telling figure is Contact Hours since some programs are multiple days and others are half days.
However that figure was not commonly recorded by challenge course managers.
- *Young programs can quickly establish themselves as did the Mount Vernon project.

**Challenge Course Participation Levels
Past 4 Years**





◆ Contact Hours

Contact hours = the sum of: Number of attending participants x Total length of program in hours.



DATE: June 9, 2006

TO: Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board

FROM: Vic Lebsock

SUBJECT: Forest Ridge Master Plan - Responses to Questions from the Board

BACKGROUND

Definitions:

- ▶ Outdoor recreation – a leisure activity that takes place indoors or outdoors involving knowledge, use or appreciation of natural resources (examples include camping, birding, biking, and hiking)
- ▶ Adventure programming – outdoor recreation activities that provide purposeful challenge to the participant (examples include mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, and climbing)
- ▶ Human powered activities – activities that do not require the use of motorized equipment (examples include backpacking, bicycling, trail running, and sailing)

(Information provided by: The Adventure Program, Raleigh Parks and Recreation by Michael Kafsky and Kathy Capps, Adventure Program Managers)

1. What are the current funding allocation and the likely scope of services in the first phase? What are the possible sources of supplemental funding?

Historically, the improvement of major parks is accomplished in phases. Examples of this would be Buffalo Road Athletic Park, Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Laurel Hills Park, Marsh Creek Park, Pullen Park, Chavis Park, and Lake Lynn Park. All of these parks will be improved in numerous phases.

As noted in the Preliminary Forest Ridge Master Plan Document, the estimated total cost of all improvement for the park is \$17.3 million. The 2003 Park and Recreation Bond referendum included a line item for Forest Ridge Park in the amount of \$4 million. The Master Plan Committee has developed a list of priorities for Forest Ridge Park. The priorities are:

- **High**
 - Adventure Education and Retreat Center
 - Multi-Use Activity Area (North)
 - Paved Park Trail to the Point (North Section)
 - Forest Ridge Park “South”
 - Associated Roads

- **Medium**
Overnight Lodge
Lakeside Center
Park Trail with alternate surface (South Section)
Associated Roads
- **Low**
Multi-Use Activity Area (South)
Camping Area
Associated roads and buildings

IN ADDITION TO THE ELEMENTS SHOWN IN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, SINGLE TRACK TRAILS AND THE DISC GOLF FACILITIES ARE ALSO ANTICIPATED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST PHASE. THEY WILL BE INSTALLED BY THE USER GROUPS AT LITTLE OR NO COST TO THE CITY.

A public review of the Preliminary Master Plan was held on March 2. Several neighbors of the park question the inclusion of the Adventure Program and asked that it be eliminated or lower the priority. The Master Plan committee met subsequently and revised the document to include the following language for the priorities: “Special emphasis will be placed on prorating the funding to realize the primary benefits of each of the high priority elements.”

The extent of the first phase will be determined by the funding available at the time of construction. To the extent possible it is anticipated that some portion of all of the high priorities will be included in the first phase.

2. *How will future phases be funded and what are the priorities in future phases?*

Future phases will be funded by any number of ways: inclusion of a line item within the General Fund of the Capital Budget, as a project in future bond referendums, grant sources.

3. *What is the language in the 2003 Bond related to Forest Ridge Park? Are there any legal restrictions for the expenditure of these funds?*

The language used for Forest Ridge in the 2003 Bond states that “Development will include design work, infrastructure elements, trail and informal open space development.”

The improvements proposed in Phase 1 include: adventure program/education elements, multi-use activity area (open play, restrooms, picnic shelter, naturalized area, and playground), asphalt trail to point, up to 20 miles of mountain bike trails, parking, access road(s), septic system, water line. It is the contention of the department staff that the stated goals of the 2003 Bond are being met.

4. *What basic elements would be needed to establish a viable outdoor adventure program at Forest Ridge?*

- High and Low Ropes Course
- Outdoor Climbing Wall
- Water access with restroom option for boating programs
- Ropes course shelter with bathrooms and storage
- Mountain bike trails
- Shell Structure – Climate controlled, office space, bathrooms, gear storage, kitchen, group meeting area, primarily used for scheduled challenge course groups

5. ***Consider removing the beach area from the Master Plan. What is the recommendation?***

The Master Plan Committee was informed that body contact with water (swimming and wading) in this section of Falls Lake is not allowed. The Committee reasoned that the beach area should be retained in the plan because this restriction might change in the future and if so the City would be allowed to provide swimming.

The same restrictions are also in effect at Lake Johnson and Lake Wheeler. Swimming is prohibited and the city manages this regulation by a combination of signage, education, and staff enforcement. Based upon this precedent it is possible to provide a 'Beach' but not allow swimming.

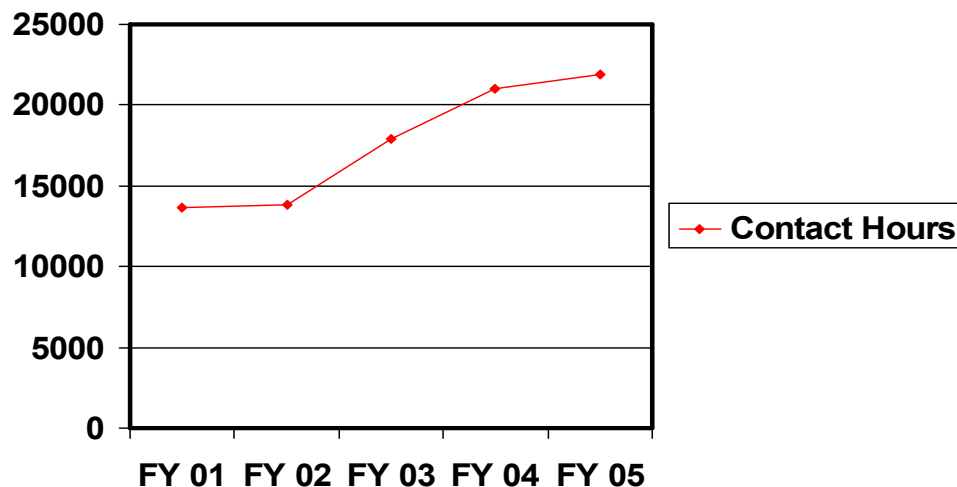
6. ***What is the process for removing the restriction for swimming in the beach area of the Master Plan?***

A water body's classification may change at the request of a local government or citizen. An application is submitted to DWQ which reviews each request for a reclassification and conducts an assessment of the water body to determine the appropriateness of the reclassification. DWQ also conducts periodic water body assessments which may result in a recommendation to reclassify the water body. In order for a water body to be reclassified it must proceed through the [rule-making process](#).

7. ***Describe the demand for Adventure Programs. What other agencies offer Adventure Programs? What is the possibility of partnering with other agencies to provide Adventure Programs?***

Adventure Program Contact Hours

Contact Hours = # of participants X # of program hours



- 1) It has been stated that the figures above show a plateau in the interest of outdoor adventure activities thus there is no need for creating adventure programming elements. **Contact Hours does not necessarily = Demand** - Current resources may limit the ability to adequately meet demand. The above graph is not meant to measure demand, but is meant to show participation and the historical trend.
- 2) Additional variables for this leveling tendency should include considerations of capacity including:
 - a) **Cubicle Based Program** – In a 20 year history the program has remained a cubicle based program. Requiring greater logistical planning including transportation, site selection, outfitter

review, fuel consumption, higher program cost, and other logistical considerations further limiting participation due to capacity issues.

- b) **Facility Resources** – Facilities resources focusing on adventure programming elements have not been developed at any city site further limiting programming opportunities.
- c) **Human Resources** – Full time staff has not increased in over 10 years and is reaching a program threshold.

What are the national trends for outdoor recreation?

In 2004, the vast majority of Americans 16+ participated at least once in a human powered active outdoor activity* as reported in the Outdoor Industry Foundation, **Outdoor Recreation Participation Study™**, Seventh Edition, for year 2004 Trend Analysis for the United States, Published June 2005:

- ▶ 159 million Americans 16+ participated in an outdoor activity in 2004
 - 71.6% of Americans 16+ were participants**
 - Extrapolated into Raleigh Population Figures(2000***) = 162,479 ages 15+
- ▶ 50.2 million Americans 16+ participated at an enthusiast level in 2004
 - 22.6% of Americans 16+ (greater than 1 in 5) were enthusiasts**
 - Extrapolated into Raleigh Population Figures(2000***) = 51,285 ages 15+
 - Raleigh Median age (2000***) = 30.9 years
- ▶ Participants in human powered outdoor activities in 2004:
 - Males and females (male/females = 56%/44%)
 - All ages (median = 41 years old)
 - Families (49% have children under 18 in household)
- ▶ Enthusiasts in human powered outdoor activities are:
 - More likely male (64%)
 - Younger than the Participant population (median = 36 years old)
 - Likely to include the presence of children under 18 in the household (47%)

*Backpacking, Bicycling - Paved Road, Bicycling - Single Track, Bicycling - Dirt Road, Bird Watching, Canoeing, Car Camping, Camping (Away from Car), Climbing - Artificial Wall, Climbing – Ice, Climbing - Natural Rock, Cross-Country/Nordic Skiing, Fishing (Non-Fly), Fly-Fishing, Hiking, Kayaking - Recreation/Sit-on-Top, Kayaking - Touring/Sea, Kayaking – Whitewater, Rafting, Snowshoeing, Telemark Skiing, Trail Running

**Participants have participated in the activity 6 or fewer times within a one-year time frame, enthusiasts have participated 7 or more times.

***Referenced from: <http://www.city-data.com/us-cities/The-South/Raleigh-Population-Profile.html>

1998-2004 Trends

- ▶ Several activities continue to benefit from the interest of Americans 16 and older in 2004. Participant levels are up for canoeing, snowshoeing, telemark skiing, and trail running.
- ▶ Kayaking has seen a 130% growth in participation from 2001-2004.
- ▶ Activities that have experienced an increase in Enthusiast levels—single track bicycling, dirt road bicycling, hiking, rafting, snowshoeing, telemark skiing, and trail running.
- ▶ The growth of human powered outdoor activities is largely increasing by participation of two key segments—females and young Americans.

Why build a park with an adventure education focus?

- ▶ Supported by national and local trends
- ▶ Attractive alternative to traditional team sports
- ▶ Adventure activities are primarily cooperative in nature
- ▶ Get non-participants involved and active
- ▶ Greater exposure through a facility would make people more aware of the opportunity to participate
- ▶ Increased age range of participants
- ▶ Increased range of adventure program activities offered
- ▶ Reduction of transportation logistics and cost
- ▶ Freedom of scheduling and cost controls
- ▶ Increased safety controls including screening and training staff, known inspections and repair/replacement schedules
- ▶ Increased human resources for executing programs
- ▶ Profitable venture enjoyed by municipalities, governments, universities, among many other groups and organizations

8. How is the Comprehensive Park Survey used in planning Forest Ridge Park? Will a new survey be completed? Is this an ongoing process?

See June 7, 2006 memoranda from David Shouse.

9. This property is designated as game lands currently? What is the status for changing that designation?

Removing the game lands designation requires a two year notification. The City requested that this notification be issued in the spring of 2004. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission issued the notification. The lands will convert to recreation lands later this year in 2006.

10. Are there any Corps of Engineers concerns related to the Plan?

There are no significant concerns. The USACE has reviewed the preliminary plan and provided a response letter. The comments were considered by the Master Plan Committee. The letter is included as part of the record for Committee Meeting #10, December 14, 2005 which is included in the appendices to the Preliminary Master Plan document.



222 W. Hargett Street, Suite 608
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 890-3285

DATE: June 7, 2006

TO: Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board

FROM: David Shouse, Park Planner

SUBJECT: Forest Ridge Park Master Plan – Question #8 Response

Question 8.a. How is the Comprehensive Park Plan survey used in planning Forest Ridge Park?

The Park Plan Interest and Participation survey results, conducted as part of the update of the Parks and Greenway element of the Raleigh Comprehensive Plan in 2004 (The “Park Plan”) are one way to gauge what activities citizens might be interested in participating in. Other considerations, in addition to the survey include the particular opportunities presented by the site, current trends in recreation, demonstrated local interest and success with a program and citizen input.

The activities listed in the Park Plan survey was not intended to evaluate all the possible opportunities or programs offered by the Department. They are typical activities that might be pursued in local parks. The ranking of activities by Latent Demand and how this measure should be used to plan individual parks has been misconstrued in some cases. Attached is a copy of the table of survey results and an excerpt of how this issue was presented to the Forest Ridge Committee. Also attached is a more specific response from Dr. Gene Brothers, who conducted the survey.

In general, latent demand is the difference between the level of interest expressed by someone and how often they participated in a specific activity. A high latent demand could mean several things:

- It could mean that there was not an opportunity to participate (due to a lack of a program or facility, or no means of getting to the program or facility);

- The desire or interest to participate is high, but a choice was made not to participate (due to high cost, location of the program or facility, or other competing opportunities were chosen);
- High latent demand could also result if one has no knowledge of the opportunity to participate (does not know about the program, or where the facility is, etc.) but would like to participate when asked.

Low latent demand does not necessarily mean that there is an abundance of opportunities to participate, but it does indicate that those with high interest have found the means to satisfy that interest. It should be noted that the activities that rank low in the interest scale still represent citizens that are interested in participating in an activity. (In this survey, % interest refers to those respondents ranking interest in an activity “extremely high” or “very high”.)

Using the results of the survey is also helpful when planning on a system-wide basis. Opportunities to participate in an activity in other, nearby sites, regardless of who the managing agency is, should be considered when planning an individual site.

Please consider Dr. Brother’s response (attached) to the importance of considering the opportunities presented at a particular site.

8.b. Will a new survey be completed? 8.c. Is this an ongoing process?

The Park Plan suggests that updates to the Plan be conducted on a five year cycle. It is likely a random survey would be part of this process. A Customer Service Study is proposed in the FY 2007-08 budget to explore user profiles, barriers to participation, awareness, and other marketing issues. In the meantime, Parks and Recreation continually monitors the success of its programs by evaluations, focus groups and citizen input. This allows staff to react to immediate requests, concerns and trends. Population and acreages in the Park Plan may be revised more frequently by the Planning Department.

Table 1. Activity Interest, Participation and Latent Demand for Raleigh residents during 2002

Activity	% Interest (extreme-v/high)*	% Participation 12 months**	Latent Demand*
Viewing wildlife	58.9%	22.5%	36.3%
Aircraft classes	38.1%	3.8%	34.3%
Picnicking with family	51.7%	17.7%	34.1%
Walking in natural area	73.0%	39.1%	33.8%
Arts show/festival	54.8%	22.2%	32.6%
Canoeing/Rowing	40.2%	8.3%	31.9%
Picnicking with groups	49.2%	12.5%	30.7%
Outdoor Performance	55.4%	25.4%	30.0%
Fitness-related Classes	33.8%	4.3%	29.8%
Using fitness trail	53.3%	25.3%	28.0%
Spryground/water park	29.7%	2.1%	27.6%
Using Pedal boats	31.7%	6.5%	25.2%
Nature Study	29.6%	4.4%	25.2%
Indoor Performance	41.7%	17.1%	24.6%
Eating Lunch	56.1%	31.6%	24.6%
Sailing	25.9%	2.8%	23.1%
Playing Tennis	32.6%	10.0%	22.6%
Visiting greenways	47.6%	25.3%	22.4%
Kite Flying	27.8%	5.5%	22.3%
Photography	34.9%	12.9%	22.0%
Fishing	30.2%	8.9%	21.3%
Fogging	40.5%	20.9%	19.6%
Bicycling	41.9%	23.4%	18.5%
Playing volleyball	23.2%	4.7%	18.3%
Reading Outdoors	37.5%	20.4%	17.1%
Walking Pets	42.3%	23.9%	16.4%
Looking at gardens	45.8%	30.1%	15.7%
Playing Softball	22.0%	6.7%	15.2%
Watching sports	37.3%	22.1%	15.2%
Playing Frisbee	24.6%	9.6%	15.0%
Playing Golf	22.9%	8.4%	14.5%
Mountain biking	26.4%	12.1%	14.3%
Playing Baseball	16.2%	2.3%	13.9%
Fitness/aqua swimming	21.4%	7.6%	13.8%
Playing Soccer	22.0%	9.0%	13.0%
Playing Football	16.7%	3.8%	12.9%
Roller/inline Skating	22.3%	9.9%	12.4%
Summer Camp	16.9%	2.5%	12.3%
Walking along trail	74.5%	62.3%	12.2%
Playing Horseshoes	15.3%	3.1%	12.2%
Playing basketball	23.8%	11.5%	12.1%
Playing Disc golf	13.8%	4.9%	9.9%
Bird Watching	23.2%	15.8%	7.6%
Playing Shuffleboard	7.8%	0.5%	7.4%
Skateboarding	7.4%	1.2%	6.2%
Trackout camp	6.4%	0.6%	5.7%
Playing at playground	35.5%	31.3%	4.2%
*Bold > 20%		**Bold <50% of Interest, Bold Italics <20% of Interest, but >50% Participation	

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A. EDUCATION

II. CITY OF RALEIGH PARKS AND RECREATION - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In order to gain an understanding of recreation needs for the City of Raleigh, Committee members were provided with a copy of the Executive Summary from the Raleigh Parks Plan. The Parks Plan is a component of Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan and includes *"recommendations for new park development, maintenance and continued renovation of existing parks and facilities, and guidelines that will allow the system to provide ample recreational opportunities for all citizens while remaining flexible to change with recreation trends, significant development opportunities and Raleigh's growing population."* A Recreation Participation and Preference Survey, conducted by the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department, was used to determine the current demand and the latent demand for the various recreation activities available throughout the Raleigh area. Latent demand is defined as a guideline of activities desired but are either lacking, not offered or not pursued due to conflicts with competing interests/desires. [Reference Appendix B: Minutes from Meeting #4]

Committee members were additionally introduced to the six divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department as well as to the following program areas within the Department: Athletics, Aquatics (8 pools, 2 year round), Arts Program (2 arts facilities), Adventure Program, Nature Program, Senior Adult Program, Teen Program, Youth Program, Historic Sites, and Summer Camps. Several program leaders presented overviews and specific needs and deficits of their programs to communicate where Forest Ridge Park could contribute to and augment their programming needs.



(From Dr. Brothers)

The application of the information in Table 1 of Appendix D of the Parks Plan, as I see it, should follow a standard planning process when a specific park development is being considered. The first criteria used in this planning process should be a consideration of the park site itself, not necessarily the information in Table 1. This first priority of the planning committee should be consideration of the characteristics of the site that lend themselves to recreation programs and facility development. It is more efficient and effective to work with the unique attributes of the site first (Ian McHarg – Design with Nature). These unique features should carry significant weight and carry through in directing the final design of the park site. This is what I'm hearing from the city staff, that the individual site attributes dictate what can realistically be done in any final design.

Now the second phase of the process should be the consideration of "what is possible" for a specific site compared to the information that is presented in Table 1. The optimal situation would be that there are numerous program items on the site planning list that fall high on the listing of activities relative to latent demand in Table 1. When these two lists align well, for example a site has significant wildlife habitat and "viewing wildlife" falls high on the list of demand, then the committee should strongly consider provision of wildlife viewing opportunities on this particular site. On the other hand, if a park site does not lend itself well to development of wildlife viewing because of the lack of wildlife habitat, but is rather open farmland then recreation fields should be considered even though they may be lower on the list found in Table 1. This is where the information in Table 1 comes into play in the selection of the specific program for a park site. This information should be used to prioritize the activities, facilities and programs that are "possible" so that they can be aligned with the community needs within the recreation system.

I hope that this response helps you to put the information in Table 1 into perspective. In my opinion, this information shouldn't dictate what goes into a specific park but rather should help the planning committee to make difficult decisions regarding the choices among the "what is possible" on a site and "what is important" to the community.

Regards,

Gene Brothers, Ph.D.

NCSU Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT FOREST RIDGE MASTER PLAN
By the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board
June 15, 2006

Greg Barley made a motion for the Parks Board to approve the Forest Ridge Master Plan as presented. His motion was seconded by Mary Alice Farrell.

The board discussed the Master Plan in detail and added the following amendments to the original motion:

- **Pete Benda** – to retain the current causal volleyball courts as indicated on the current plan and to consider including up to four (4) sand volleyball courts in the area designated currently as beach as an initial purpose use pending the final resolution of submittal to DWQ relative to allowing water contact at the beach. His motion was seconded by Richard Bostic. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)
- **Richard Bostic** – to add the north south greenway to the high priority category of the master plan. His motion was seconded by Tina Certo. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)
- **Richard Bostic** – to move the overnight lodge from medium priority to low priority. His motion was seconded by Patrick Beggs. [The motion failed.](#)
- **Patrick Beggs** requested the following:
 1. Vision statement to specifically include all construction handle stormwater runoff
 2. Architecture befitting the landscape
 3. Innovative architectural design
 4. No light pollution from the park

George Stanziale read portions of the plan that dealt with these items of concern. Patrick Beggs was satisfied with what was read and [he withdrew his request.](#)

- Richard Bostic and Patrick Beggs had concerns relative to low profile floating docks for rowers and whether or not the lakeside center will accommodate rowers. **Patrick Beggs** made a motion that in addition to the word paddling, rowing is also included when describing the small boat house amenities. His motion was seconded by Richard Bostic. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)
- Richard Bostic and Patrick Beggs also had concerns about storage space for larger boats. **Patrick Beggs** made a motion that on page 55, paragraph 2, the word small be removed when discussing boat house storage. His motion was seconded by Mary Alice Farrell. [The motion passed \(11 ayes and 3 nays\).](#)
- **Chris Smith** called question on the original motion. Chair Kirschbaum asked that the motion be clarified.
- **Greg Barley** moved that the Parks Board approve the Forest Ridge Master Plan as presented with approved amendments to the original motion and to forward these recommendations to City Council for consideration. The modified motion was seconded by Chris Smith. [The motion passed unanimously.](#)